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This Week's Line Up



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Monday 15th August 2011

Wilkinson: China is “new Europe”

Central Coast Mariners captain and fan favourite, Alex Wilkinson, believes Australian footballers will increasingly look to China as an avenue to further their careers, with big bucks being offered by the leagues emerging clubs.

Having returned to training with his Mariners teammates on Monday following a loan spell with Jiangsu Sainty in the Chinese Super League (CSL), Wilkinson labelled the financial opportunities in the nation akin to those available in Europe.

“Obviously the money that the presidents and the clubs can splash around is huge, but that’s because the country (China) has over a billion people in it,” Wilkinson said.

“I think that is the last time you will see players going on loan there, because it’s going to be difficult with the A-League starting and finishing later. But I think you are going to see a lot more players transferring there – I think it’s sort of the new Europe.”

“Clubs are allowed an extra Asian player in their squads over there, so many of the teams are looking to take advantage of using Aussie players,” he said.

While the 26-year-old Mariners stalwart said the financial might of many Chinese franchises far outweighed the cash on offer from Australian clubs, he believes that the Hyundai A-League more than matches the CSL on the pitch.

Indeed, Wilkinson’s recent experience in the CSL augurs well for the Yellow and Navy’s AFC Champions League campaign in 2012, with the club almost certain to face Chinese opposition in the group stage.

“The top half of the Chinese league has got some very good teams, but I think the A-League’s on par if not stronger than most of those top teams – we’re going along pretty nicely,” he said.

Just two days back into training with the Mariners in the lead up to the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season, Wilkinson added that some of the clubs’ new additions had already impressed him; however the fact management had kept the bulk of last years’ successful side together is what excites him the most.

“Obviously we’ve brought in a bit of quality and a number of faces who are going to add a lot of things to the team,” he said.

“But we’ve kept the core of the squad together which has been the main thing. So far so good.”

Socceroos tame Welsh Dragons

The Socceroos have tuned up for the FIFA 2014 World Cup Asian qualifiers with a slick 2-1 victory over Wales in Cardiff.

Tim Cahill’s crisp volley in the 44th minute and a neat Robbie Kruse finish in the 60th minute were fair rewards for some beautiful passing and clever build-up by the Qantas Socceroos.

Darcy Blake reduced the arrears for Wales with a header in the 82nd minute, setting up a tense finish, but the Welsh rarely bothered the Australian defence.

Lucas Neill and Matthew Spiranovic were resolute in the middle, while Michael Zullo was outstanding at left full back.

Qantas Socceroos coach Holger Osieck praised his players for the impressive away win in Europe against a team featuring the English Premier League PFA Player of the Year Gareth Bale of Spurs, prolific EPL striker Craig Bellamy and Arsenal’s rising star Aaron Ramsey.

“The win is very important because it builds confidence for the World Cup qualifiers, but I was also happy to see the players come together again after their off-season and play with cohesion,” said Osieck.

“We introduced a few players in new positions as well and produced good football despite the changes. However, this is only a warm up for the important game against Thailand in Brisbane.”

Osieck was also impressed at Zullo’s performance in shutting down Bellamy in the first half and Bale in the second half.

“I think it was a maximum test. He got an impression of what was required on the standard of play and

we have to face it,” said Osieck.

“Wales have a couple of excellent individuals and they play in top clubs in the Premiership and I knew it would be a tough game, but as a group we responded well.”

Brett Emerton now sits equal second for all-time appearances for the Qantas Socceroos after making his 87th appearance in Cardiff.

However, Emerson’s night was cut short when he was substituted at half time with a stomach upset.

Luke Wilshire also left the game at the interval due to a rib injury, which was painful enough to hamper the full back, but is not considered serious.

Tim Cahill scored his 24th goal in 53 internationals and appeared refreshed after a quiet off-season.

Robbie Kruse now has two goals from eight appearances.

The match was a milestone for Adam Sarota, who made his full international debut when he came on as a sub in the final 10 minutes.

Luke Wilshire came close to open the scoring for the Qantas Socceroos in the 35th minute. He collected a pass on the right side of midfield before unleashing a 30 yard shot that came off the post.

Wales were however unable to prevent Australia from breaking the deadlock just before half time.

Matt McKay and Neil Kilkenny exchanged passes in the middle of the park before releasing the ball to Wilshire on the right flank.

Wilshire’s cross was met by Tim Cahill’s volley to give Australia a one goal advantage going into the break.

Holger Osieck made two changes at half time bringing on Rhys Williams and Kruse for Wilshire and Emerton.

Kruse made an

Match Details

Socceroos 2
(Tim Cahill 44', Robbie Kruse 60')
Wales 1 (Darcy Blake 83')
International Friendly
Wednesday 10 August
Cardiff City Stadium, Cardiff

Socceroos line-up: 1. Mark SCHWARZER (gk), 2. Lucas NEILL (c), 4. Tim CAHILL (11. James TROISI 70'), 6. Matthew SPIRANOVIC, 7. Brett EMERTON (5. Rhys WILLIAMS 46'), 8. Luke WILKSHIRE (23. Robbie KRUSE 46'), 9. Scott MCDONALD (15.Mile JEDINAK 90'), 14. Michael ZULLO (13. Adam SAROTA 83'), 16. Carl VALERI, 17. Matt MCKAY, 19. Neil KILKENNY

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Luke DEVERE, 12. Adam FEDERICI (gk)
Yellow Cards: Michael Zullo 56'
Red Cards: Nil

Wales line-up: 1. Wayne HENNESSEY (gk), 2. Chris GUNTER (16. Adam MATTHEWS 63'), 3. Neil TAYLOR, 4. David VAUGHAN (22. Joe ALLEN 71'), 5. Daniel GABIDON (21. Darcy BLAKE 46'), 6. Ashley WILLIAMS, 7. Robert EARN-SHAW (18. Steve MORISON63'), 8. Craig BELLAMY, 9. Joe LEDLEY, 10. Aaron RAMSEY (c) (14. Jack COLLISON 46'), 11. Gareth BALE

Substitutes Not Used: 12. Boaz MYHILL (gk), 13. Neal EARDLEY, 15. Danny COLLINS, 17. Hal ROBSON-KANU, 19. Andy KING, 20. Owain TUDUR-JONES
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil



Weet Bix Kid: Tim Cahill

immediate impact when his shot in the 50th minute was saved by goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey.

Valeri was first to the rebound but his shot hit the woodwork.

The Qantas Socceroos extended their lead 10 minutes later from a great build up in midfield. Cahill, Kruse and Scott McDonald linked up well before McDonald’s low cross was parried by Hennessey onto the feet of Kruse.

Kruse made no mistake to slot the ball into the empty net.

Wales pulled a goal back in the 83rd minute from a corner. The unmarked Darcy headed the ball beyond the reach of Mark Schwarzer to give Wales a chance at a comeback.

Bale had one last opportunity in the 89th minute but his goal bound shot was headed away by Matthew Spiranovic.

The Qantas Socceroos open their FIFA 2014 World Cup qualifiers against Thailand in Brisbane on Friday 2 September. The public on-sale is next Tuesday 16 August.

Short Passes

United ready for visit of New Caledonia
THE New Caledonian national team arrive on the Gold Coast this weekend to prepare for the two-match friendly series against Gold Coast United on Wednesday 17th and Saturday 20th August.
The two sides will do battle at Merrimac Soccer Club with both matches kicking off at 7.00pm.

Severino strike enough for United
A FIRST half goal from Daniel Severino was enough to secure a 1-0 win for Gold Coast United against Queensland State League Premiers Sunshine Coast Fire at Stockland Park.
Sporting their new away strip for the first time, Gold Coast took just six minutes to net the winning goal after a bright opening to the match.
Dutch import Peter Jungschlager was the architect, the midfielder blasting a 25-metre drive that thundered back off the upright but landed at the feet of Daniel Severino who made no mistake from close range.
Despite a determined effort from the home side, United were in control of the encounter with the midfield trio of Jungschlager, Severino and Robson pulling all the strings and Adama Traore a constant threat with his pacy overlapping runs down the left-hand side.

SYDNEY FC APPOINTS KALAC
Sydney FC has appointed former Socceroo and AC Milan goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac as Hyundai A-League Goalkeeper Coach for the 2011/12 season.
Kalac, who started his career in Sydney with former NSL Club Sydney United, begins work immediately.
“This is a great opportunity for me,” Kalac said. “It’s a pleasure to come in and work for my club because I’m Sydney born and bred and Sydney FC is my team. The facilities are great and I’m looking forward to working with the goalkeepers and the rest of the coaching staff.”
The man they call “Spider” had a stellar career as a goalkeeper, playing for Leicester City (English Championship), Roda JC (Dutch Eredivisie), Perugia (Italy’s Serie A and Serie B) and Italian superclub AC Milan for four seasons before finishing his career in Greece with Kavala.

The search is on for Australian football’s Team of the Year

Across the cities and regions of Australia each weekend, thousands of football teams go into action with skill, passion and fair play.

Now the search is on for the Team of the Year from the grassroots in the 2011 Australian Football Awards Team of the Year.

The nominees will include teams who have won many games with flair. There may be team who haven’t won a match, but inspire others with their commitment and values.

There are many champion teams with wonderful attributes, young and old. If your team or a team you support shows a special quality, it’s time to lodge a nomination.

This national award is open to all age groups so make sure you nominate your team now at <http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/footballawards/>.

Eligibility and selection criteria

The team must:

- Have a passion and flair for the game
- Be part of a club that is registered with Football Federation Australia
- Have all players registered as amateurs
- Demonstrate a great team effort on the field in a competition that has concluded on or before 30 June 2011 (2010 winter/2011 summer seasons)
- Foster equal opportunity for all
- Show on and off field excellence
- Uphold and display fair play values

Selection Process

- Nominations are open to the public now until Friday 19 August 2011
- Nomination forms can be completed and submitted online at <http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/footballawards/>
- Teams are permitted and encouraged to self-nominate
- Only one nomination per nominator is permitted. Teams can receive multiple nominations from different nominators

With only five days to go, don’t miss out and nominate your team now.

Nominations close 5.00pm AEDT on Friday 19 August 2011.



Australia’s Got Talent? Better luck next year boys...I think we just may have found ourselves some worthy winners...

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ENGLAND EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Bolton Wanderers	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3	W
2 Wolverhampton ...	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3	W
3 Liverpool	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	1	D
4 Norwich City	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	1	D
5 Sunderland	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	1	D
6 Wigan Athletic	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	1	D
7 Arsenal	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
8 Aston Villa	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
9 Fulham	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
10 Newcastle United	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
11 Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
12 Everton	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
13 Manchester City	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
14 Manchester United	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
15 Stoke City	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
16 Swansea City	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
17 Tottenham Hotspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
18 West Bromwich ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
19 Blackburn Rovers	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	L
20 Queens Park Ra...	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0	

LEAGUE ONE



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Rotherham United	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	6	WW
2 Gillingham	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
3 Southend United	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
4 Port Vale	2	1	1	0	5	3	+2	4	WD
5 Crawley Town	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4	WD
6 Torquay United	2	1	1	0	4	3	+1	4	WD
7 Northampton Town	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4	WD
8 Morecambe	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3	WL
9 Swindon Town	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3	LW
10 AFC Wimbledon	2	1	0	1	4	4	+0	3	LW
11 Bristol Rovers	2	1	0	1	4	4	+0	3	LW
12 Aldershot Town	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	3	WL
13 Cheltenham Town	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	3	WL
14 Barnet	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3	LW
15 Dagenham & Red...	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3	WL
16 Burton Albion	2	0	2	0	3	3	+0	2	DD
17 Shrewsbury Town	2	0	2	0	2	2	+0	2	DD
18 Bradford City	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	DL
19 Accrington Stanley	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	LD
20 Oxford United	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	DL
21 Plymouth Argyle	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3	1	LD
22 Macclesfield Town	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0	LL
23 Crewe Alexandra	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0	LL
24 Hereford United	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0	LL

GERMANY Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Mainz 05	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6	WW
2 Hannover 96	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2	6	WW
3 Stuttgart	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	4	WD
4 Borussia M'gl'a...	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4	DW
5 Wolfsburg	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3	LW
6 Werder Bremen	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3	W
7 Schalke 04	2	1	0	1	5	4	+1	3	WL
8 Borussia Dortmund	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	3	LW
9 Hoffenheim	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	3	WL
10 Nürnberg	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	3	LW
11 Bayern München	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	3	WL
12 Augsburg	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	1	D
13 Freiburg	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	LD
14 Hertha BSC	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	DL
15 Hamburger SV	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1	DL
16 Bayer Leverkusen	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	L
17 Kaiserslautern	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	L
18 Köln	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0	

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Southampton	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6	WW
2 Brighton & Hov...	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
3 Derby County	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
4 Millwall	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4	WD
5 Reading	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4	WD
6 Middlesbrough	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4	WD
7 Ipswich Town	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3	LW
8 Crystal Palace	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	3	WL
9 Peterborough U...	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3	W
10 Blackpool	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3	W
11 Cardiff City	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3	W
12 Birmingham City	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	3	WL
13 Hull City	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	3	WL
14 West Ham United	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	3	WL
15 Leicester City	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3	LW
16 Portsmouth	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	LD
17 Watford	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	LD
18 Barnsley	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	LD
19 Burnley	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1	LD
20 Nottingham Forest	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1	LD
21 Doncaster Rovers	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0	LL
22 Coventry City	2	0	0	2	0	2	-2	0	LL
23 Leeds United	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0	LL
24 Bristol City	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0	LL

LEAGUE TWO



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Rotherham United	2	2	0	0	5	1	+4	6	WW
2 Gillingham	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
3 Southend United	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
4 Port Vale	2	1	1	0	5	3	+2	4	WD
5 Crawley Town	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4	WD
6 Torquay United	2	1	1	0	4	3	+1	4	WD
7 Northampton Town	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4	WD
8 Morecambe	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3	WL
9 Swindon Town	2	1	0	1	3	1	+2	3	LW
10 AFC Wimbledon	2	1	0	1	4	3	+1	3	WL
11 Bristol Rovers	2	1	0	1	4	4	+0	3	LW
12 Aldershot Town	2	1	0	1	2	2	+0	3	LW
13 Cheltenham Town	2	1	0	1	1	1	+0	3	WL
14 Barnet	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3	LW
15 Dagenham & Red...	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3	LW
16 Burton Albion	2	0	2	0	3	3	+0	2	DD
17 Shrewsbury Town	2	0	2	0	2	2	+0	2	DD
18 Bradford City	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	DL
19 Accrington Stanley	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	LD
20 Oxford United	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	DL
21 Plymouth Argyle	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3	1	LD
22 Macclesfield Town	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0	LL
23 Crewe Alexandra	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0	LL
24 Hereford United	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0	LL

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Feyenoord	2	2	0	0	5	0	+5	6	WW
2 Twente	2	2	0	0	3	0	+3	6	WW
3 Vitesse	2	1	1	0	4	0	+4	4	WD
4 AZ	2	1	0	1	3	3	+0	3	LW
5 Ajax	1	1	0	0	4	1	+3	3	W
6 Roda JC	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2	3	LW
7 PSV	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3	WL
8 Heerenveen	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	1	D
9 Heracles	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	1	D
10 NEC	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	1	D
11 RKC Waalwijk	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	LD
12 Utrecht	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
13 VVV	2	0	1	1	0	4	-4	1	LD
14 ADO Den Haag	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
15 Groningen	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0	L
16 NAC Breda	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	L
17 Excelsior	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0	L
18 De Graafschap	1	0	0	1	1	4	-3	0	

FRANCE League 1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Toulouse	2	2	0	0	4	0	+4	6	WW
2 Caen	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
3 Saint-Étienne	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
4 Stade Rennes	2	1	1	0	6	2	+4	4	DW
5 Olympique Lyon	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4	DW
6 Lorient	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4	DW
7 Montpellier	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3	W
8 Brest	2	0	2	0	2	2	+0	2	DD
9 Evian TG	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	1	D
10 Olympique Mar	1	0	1	0	2	2	+0	1	D
11 Lille	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	1	D
12 Sochaux	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	LD
13 Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	DL
14 Nancy	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	LD
15 PSG	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	DL
16 PValenciennes	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	DL
17 Ajaccio	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1	DL
18 Auxerre	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0	L
19 Nice	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0	L
20 Dijon	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0	

SCOTLAND SPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last 5 games
1 Motherwell	4	3	1	0	5	0	+5	10	WWDW
2 Celtic	3	3	0	0	8	1	+7	9	WWW
3 Rangers	3	2	1	0	5	1	+4	7	WWD
4 Dunfermline At...	3	1	2	0	4	3	+1	5	WDD
5 St. Mirren	4	1	2	1	2	2	+0	5	LDWD
6 Dundee United	4	1	2	1	4	7	-3	5	LDWD
7 Heart of Midlo...	4	1	1	2	4	3	+1	4	WLDD
8 Hibernian	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3	WL
9 Kilmarnock	2	0	2	0	1	1	+0	2	DD
10 St. Johnstone	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	1	LDD
11 Aberdeen	4	0	1	3	0	5	-5	1	LLLD
12 Inverness CT	4	0	1	3	3	9	-6	1	

BELGIUM Juniper One



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Club Brugge	3	2	1	0	9	3	+6	7	WDW
2 Mons	3	1	2	0	6	4	+2	5	WDD
3 Genk	3	1	2	0	5	3	+2	5	DDW
4 Kortrijk	3	1	2	0	3	1	+2	5	WDD
5 Zulte-Waregem	3	1	2	0	4	3	+1	5	DWD
6 Gent	3	1	1	1	5	4	+1	4	WDL
7 Beerschot	3	1	1	1	6	6	+0	4	WDL
8 PStandard Liège	3	1	1	1	5	5	+0	4	LWD
9 Cercle Brugge	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4	LDW
10 Anderlecht	2	1	0	1	4	3	+1	3	WL
11 Mechelen	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3	LW
12 OH Leuven	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3	LLW
13 Lierse	2	0	2	0	1	1	+0	2	DD
14 Lokeren	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1	LD
15 Sint-Truiden	3	0	1	2	6	9	-3	1	LDL
16 Westerlo	3	0	1	2	1	8	-7	1	LDL



New EPL season kicks off in the aftermath of a shaken London

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

EPL
It is back. The biggest league in world football has returned with a bang and some interesting results on the first day, featuring a new-look Liverpool side. However, the London riot incidents threatening the status of many games.

The London riots threatened several opening games this week, including Liverpool's clash with Sunderland and Bolton's away match to newcomers Queen's Park Rangers. However, these two went ahead and were two of the interesting matches of Sunday morning. Tottenham and Everton were not so lucky, their game at White Hart Lane cancelled in fears of fan and

player safety by the F.A.

The opening night welcomed a new-look Liverpool side after \$150 million in spending since January showed a very different squad that was to face Sunderland at Anfield. However, all this summer spending could not help Liverpool as they could only muster a 1-1 draw with the Black Cats.

After Luis Suarez was one on one with the keeper he was brought down in the box and Phil Dowd gave a penalty in the sixth. Suarez stepped up to the spot and skied the penalty in horrible fashion. However, he made up for it five minutes later as Charlie Adam curled in a left footed free-kick beautifully and Suarez got a head on in to tip the ball in for his and Liverpool's first for the season.

Liverpool dominated the first half with Adam, Downing and Henderson all shinning in the midfield, but they went quiet in the second and failed to gel.

Consequently, it wasn't to be for Liverpool as new Sunderland signing Sebastian Larsson scored a

wonderfully controlled side volley that Pepe Reina could do nothing about. Liverpool were lucky to walk away with a point after controlling most of the game, but dropped their intensity in an overall disappointing opening match.

In the other matches of the opening night Arsenal faced Newcastle without Cesc Fabregas who has evidently completed a Barcelona transfer. In an overall lacklustre game in which Arsenal should have converted many chances, it finished 0-0 at St. James' Park. The outcome was made worse for the Gunners as new signing Gervinho was given a straight red for a slap on Joey Barton.

Elsewhere, Bolton overcame a poor QPR 4-0 with a fantastic opening strike from Gary Cahill the highlight of the match. Goals from Klasnic and Muamba and an own goal from Danny Gabbidon were enough for the visitors, but a 93rd minute red card for Clint Hill made the outcome worse.

Finally, Wolves overcame Black-

burn 2-1, Fulham drew 0-0 with Aston Villa and Wigan drew 0-0 with newcomers Norwich.

Bundesliga
Day two of the German Bundesliga saw some interesting clashes and some equally interesting results that make evident the intensity of the competition this season.

League champs Dortmund travelled to Hoffenheim with the hope adding a second win to their tally. They were not so lucky with a solitary Salihovic goal enough for the home side to clench a 1-0 win.

In the match of the round, Bayern Munich was to play Wolfsburg away and desperately needed a win after an opening round loss. In a very interesting finish to the match a late 90th minute goal from Luiz Gustavo gave Munich the three points.

In the high scoring game of the round Schalke hosted Koln and the home side trounced the travellers 5-1, the highlight being a Klass Jan

Huntelaar hat-trick.

Elsewhere Hamburger drew 2-2 with Hertha Berlin, Hannover defeated Nurnberg 2-1, Stuttgart drew with Monchengladbach 1-1 and Mainz overcame Freiburg 2-1.

Ligue 1
It was a lacklustre second day in the second round of Ligue 1 with only three wins in a flurry of low-scoring drawn matches, including heavyweights' Lyon and Bordeaux's respective matches.

Lyon hosted newcomers Ajaccio in what should have been their second win of the season. Instead, they walked away with a 1-1 draw after a late 83rd minute goal from Lisandro Lopez was enough to cancel out Sammaritano's 59th minute goal.

Bordeaux travelled to Lorient in search of their first win of the season after a loss in the opening week. Two late goals from either side in the last 10 minutes made the match interesting with Joffre netting for Lorient in the 83rd and Henrique in the 90th.

Elsewhere, Toulouse defeated newcomers Dijon 2-0, Caen overcame Sochaux 2-1, Saint-Etienne grabbed a narrow 1-0 win over Nancy, PSG drew with Rennes 1-1 and Valenciennes fought out a 0-0 draw with Stade Brest.

SPL
Rangers, Celtic and Heats highlighted the fourth week of the Scottish Premier League, each side grabbing comfortable wins to climb up the table.

Celtic took the honours of the high scoring match of the week with a 5-1 win over Dundee thanks to goals from Stokes, Hooper, Ki, Ledley and Forrest sealing a win and second spot. Rivals Rangers Also enjoyed a comfortable 2-0 win over Inverness thanks to a Jelavic penalty on the hour mark and an Edu goal seven minutes later to push them up to third.

Elsewhere, Motherwell kept top spot with a 1-0 win over St. Mirren, Hearts grabbed a 3-0 win over Aberdeen and Dunfermline defeated St. Johnstone 1-0.



Arsenal's difficult week continues as Gervinho is sent off on his Gunners debut and they are unable to break down a stubborn Newcastle side. Photo: BACK PAGE IMAGES

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Firelight to Green Light

By Jimmy Piccolo

Football is never far away from controversy in one form or another, whether it's the talk of goal line technology, hooliganism, match fixing or the transfer saga of players.

More seriously, the latest hassle to feature in the midst of our beautiful game is not even football-related. Devastating images of rioting, looting, violent disorder and the night sky lit up with buildings ablaze on the streets of London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool have posed a new problem to the English Premier League (EPL), only days away from kick-off.

What sparked off the mayhem in England's capital was the killing of Mark Duggan on the 4th August during a police operation to carry out an arrest, related to gun crime, in the African and Caribbean communities of Tottenham. The following day, 300 people gathered outside Tottenham police station in protest, saying they wanted justice for Mr Duggan and his family. Unrest

led quickly to two police cars being set on fire, which in turn prompted the deployment of riot officers to try and disperse the crowd. Missiles, including bottles and fireworks, were hurled at the police and the horror then began to spread. Copycat riots appeared throughout the city and the ripple effect sparked riots around the country. Buildings were burnt to the ground. Opportunist thieves took advantage of the outnumbered police and began looting shops and causing mindless damage to properties and transport. Within less than a week, no fewer than 1500 arrests were made, of which over 600 people have been charged in connection with the violence, disorder and looting. The death toll has reached five. One man was beaten badly by the rioting thugs for trying to stamp out a fire, and he later died in a coma. Another man was shot dead in his car.

The police have increased their staffing to 16,000 and politicians have called for the use of anti-rioting equipment

such as water cannons, plastic bullets and baton rounds. The deterrent of such calls for order appears to have quelled the rioting, and currently a sense of calm and normality has begun to creep slowly back onto the smoking and debris-littered streets.

Local communities have already started to pull together; cleaning parties have armed themselves with sweeping brooms and bin bags. It is believed that insurance companies will have £200 million to shell out on buildings razed to the ground, although some of these buildings destroyed are Heritage, now assigned to the history book absolute. There has been an estimated loss of over £100 million in goods stolen from the looting. Former and current England football team captains Rio Ferdinand and John Terry have both spoken out, regarding their disappointment of the cancellation of International fixtures. They also mirrored the general feeling of the public, saying they were sickened by events and ap-



Scenes of carnage gripped London and forced the postponement of football fixtures.

pealed for calm on the streets. Tim Cahill, the Australia and Everton midfielder, was obviously saddened by the postponement of the opening fixture (Tottenham Hotspurs versus Everton at White Hart Lane), owing to the massive disruption. Tim, speaking via his Twitter account, said: "It's more important that the people are safe as we all love footy" On a positive note, the remaining EPL fixtures have been given the green light to go ahead as planned. In the after-

math of the recent destruction, sensible solutions are being carried out and on the whole our beloved football will not suffer the same sadness as the victims and families of these traumatic happenings. Regarding future repercussions, when asked "whether the riots were a cause for concern for the host City's image ahead of the games?" the International Olympic Committee (IOC) spokesman, Mark Adams said: "Not at all. This situation doesn't arise at any of our sites

and we remain confident in the ability of the competent authorities to maintain security" One thing is for sure though: there will be more fireworks and devastation on the football field, with explosive free kicks and devastated fans around the country seeing their team beaten by a rocket shot of a winning goal scored deep in injury time.



Matt Sanderson

Championship newbies excel on opening weekend

All three promoted teams from League One started their Championship campaigns with a win last weekend. Brighton defeated Doncaster Rovers 2-1 at their brand new stadium, with two late goals from substitute Will Buckley. Peterborough beat Crystal Palace 2-1 also coming back from a one goal deficit to win the match and Southampton outclassed Leeds to win their first match back in the Championship 3-1.

Brighton and Peterborough's wins were deserved but I would think twice about using them as an indicator for the coming season. Southampton on the other hand played brilliantly in their first match back in the Championship after two seasons in League One. Their passing was precise and their movement was excellent as

they dominated Leeds for large periods of the match. They look like a team definitely capable of securing at least a play-off spot this season.

Does a gulf exist?

These opening weekend wins got me thinking. It is often mentioned that there is a gulf in class between Premier League and Championship opposition but does this same gap in quality exist between teams in the Championship and League One or even Two?

Take for example this week's League Cup results. Championship sides Hull, Ipswich, Derby and Portsmouth were all knocked out of the competition by teams in League One and Two. None of these matches went to penalties; the Championship teams were all beaten within 90 minutes. However, this is not seen as that surprising or unexpected by many in the media. I don't suppose for one minute that this would be the case if four Premiership teams were knocked out in the second round of the competition by teams from a lower division.

It seems that teams promoted to the Championship do not have to step up their game as much as teams who are

entering the Premier League. Norwich were promoted to the Championship in 2010 and gained promotion to the top flight this year. Leeds and Millwall also promoted to the Championship in 2010 finished in the top half of the table last season.

Not in Premier League history has a team promoted from the Championship won the League and it is highly unlikely that QPR, Swansea and Norwich will all finish in the top half of the Barclays Premier League table this season. A feat that has yet to be achieved by any three promoted teams in the history of the Premier League and only once have all three newly promoted teams avoided the dreaded drop back to the Championship.

London Burning

Mindless violence and crime spread across London and other areas in England resulting in a number of football matches being postponed. England's international friendly against the Netherlands due to take place on Wednesday at Wembley stadium was called off and a handful of Carling cup matches were postponed.

Then on Thursday last week

came the news everybody was dreading, the Premier League clash between Tottenham and Everton at White Hart Lane was to be postponed. This was the most likely fixture to be cancelled in the capital, but it is still hard to comprehend. Not only have these opportunistic thugs looted shops and destroyed livelihoods but they have ruined the opening weekend in the Premier League. Do they have any idea how long I have been waiting for this!?

Let's talk Torres

Yes we all know he didn't make the best start to his Chelsea career after signing for £50m from Liverpool in January, only managing one goal in 18 appearances for the blues. However, with a new manager in André Villas-Boas and a goal during pre-season there is every possibility that the Spanish striker will find his form. Although, if the manager sticks with a 4-3-3 formation, Torres faces competition from Drogba, Sturridge, Anelka and new signing at the bridge, Romelu Lukaku.

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Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia
Partizan got its title defence off with a fantastic 5:0 win over newly promoted Novi Pazar in Round 1 of the Serbian Super-Liga. First half goals to Eduardo and Tomic set the scene for the second half in which 3 more goals were scored, Ilic, Markovic and Babovic found the back of the net. It was a horrible start for Novi Pazar a club that has never played top flight football, they didn't even win promotion but are instead playing because Borca did not have enough funds to compete in the SuperLiga. There were around 11,000 fans in Belgrade with at least 1,000 travelling fans. In other matches Hajduk surprised OFK in Belgrade 3:2 with a double from Bubalo and a late own goal by Petrovic sealed the three points for the club from Kula. Smederevo defeated BSK 2:1 while Vojvodina shared the points with Radnicki 1:1 as did Jagodina and Sloboda. Red Star takes on Spartak in Subotica in their first match of the new league season with both players and management confident of a

Partizan begins title defence in style



Partizan are off to a great start with a 5-0 win in the opening day of the Serbian season.

winning season ahead. "Red Star is always ambitious and that's normal. Our goals are to win the League and Cup and to Qualify for the Europa League. What will happen? We will wait and see. We will try and play our best in all three competitions and I believe we are the favourites in the League. We have a solid team that will time gets better and better, we will try and limit the mistakes we made last season and by doing so we can go very far. We are all up to the challenge. It will be an interesting season and the title race will of course be between Red Star and Partizan but Vojvodina and the likes of Spartak and FK Rad will

make things difficult also." Red Star Manager Robert Prosinecki said ahead of the new season. The Serbian National Team was defeated by Russia in a midweek friendly in Moscow. The only goal came in the second half from Pogrebnyak in match where both sides played fairly reserved. There can be a few positives to take from the defeat but more negatives as Serbia needs to find some consistency if they are to Qualify for the European championships in 2012.

Croatia
Dinamo Zagreb has been unstoppable in the Croatia First Division following another im-

pressive performance. The Croatian Champions thrashed Karlovac 5:0. Tonel, Krstanovic, Beqiraj, Badelj and Situm were the names on the scoresheet. Beqiraj, Badelj and Situm were all second half substitutes. The impressive win is Dinamo's fourth from four Croatian League matches. Hajduk was also very impressive in their 3:0 win over Istra Pula. Goals from Tomasov and a double from Anas Sharbini sealed the points for Krasimir Balakov's men in Pula. Australian youngster Steven Lustica played an impressive 82 minutes for the Split club. Ljubo Milicevic was not used.

"We played a tactically and defensively good match, and we were very lucky to have scored an early goal which gave us confidence and the initiative in the match. Anas (Sharbini) played well today, I gave him a licence to roam around the field and it paid off for us. He hasn't done much for the club in the last 2 seasons so this was excellent for his confidence and I hope he continues to perform well." Hajduk Manager Krasimir Balakov said following the match. In other Round 4 matches Rijeka defeated Varazdin 2:0, Cibalia was humbled at home by Slaven Belupo 4:1, Lokomotiva continues to impress this season following a 3:0 away win over Zadar, the small club is now in second position just two points behind big brother Dinamo Zagreb. In earlier matches Inter defeated Sibenik 2:0 and Zagreb overcame Lucko 1:0. The Croatian National Team played out a goalless friendly against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin. Slaven Bilic's mane didn't show much in a very tactical match where both sides failed to get much in the final third. Nikola Kalinic who swapped the Premier League for Ukrainian football had a debut he will never forget. He scored for his new club Dnipro against Shakhtar but was then sent off. Kalinic is one of the clubs biggest signings. The striker set himself a target of 15 goals this season.

Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Athletico On A Shopping Spree
Spanish club Atletico Madrid have begun spending the 45 Million Euro earned from the sale of Argentine striker Sergio Aguero to Manchester City, with a 12 Million Euro purchase of Turkish captain Arda Turan from Galatasaray. Atletico pay a further 1 Million Euro after performance bonuses are met. The Atletico Madrid website reported: "Arda Turan is Atletico Madrid's new signing after passing his medical on Friday. The new player has signed a four-year deal with the club." The 24 year old Turkish star was a target of many clubs, in fact Madrid's big brother Real Madrid was also interested in signing the midfielder. Turan was quoted as stating; "I haven't received any offer from Real Madrid, in any case I would have chosen Atletico. I know that here I will be part of the team and that the fans are great, like the ones of Galatasaray".

Meanwhile Inter Milan are set to sell Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o to Russian club Anzhi, and are looking towards Uruguayan and Atleti forward Diego Forlan as a replacement. A potential sale of Forlan by Atletico would give the club enough finance an expensive purchase of Porto's prolific Colombian striker Radamel Falcao. Atletico Madrid President Enrique Cerezo was quoted: "All I can say is that we are seeking a great player, and Radamel Falcao is one of them. He is one of our targets. The 45 million euros termination clause? This is a lot of money... We'll see."

In other news, the longest transfer saga during the European football off-season has been the potential sale of Cesc Fabregas of English club Arsenal to Catalan club Barcelona. Barca's Coach Pep Guardiola made the following statement: "According to the information we have from club bosses negotiations are very advanced but there is still a document missing to confirm... The prospects are good, but he's still an Arsenal player. Otherwise I would confirm it."

- The 2011-2012 La Liga Season starts next weekend;*
- 20/08/11 Levante v Zaragoza
 - 20/08/11 Espanyol v Granada
 - 20/08/11 Villarreal v Sporting
 - 20/08/11 Osasuna v Valencia
 - 21/08/11 Rayo Vallecano v Mallorca
 - 21/08/11 Racing Santander v Getafe
 - 21/08/11 Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao
 - 21/08/11 Malaga v Barcelona
 - 21/08/11 Real Betis v Sevilla
 - 22/08/11 Real Sociedad v Atletico Madrid

We Are But The Clueless

By Matt Galea

It is human nature for people to want to know everything and to know it now. Books, newspapers, the internet and social media are all, in one way or another, a manifestation of this unsatisfiable desire we have to learn and to be informed as quickly and as easily as possible.
This unquenchable thirst will apply to almost everything we do in life, but for that large part of our being which we focus on our football clubs it becomes concentrated, so potent that we will listen to anyone and we will read anything. We want to know what the manager said, we want to know what's being said behind closed doors, we want to know what the players are doing off the pitch, we want to know who's injured and who isn't and during the transfer window, we want to know who's coming in and who's going out before it happens. This is normal, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly clear that we in fact know nothing. There have been few transfer windows more effective than this most recent one to demonstrate the utter circus the never ceasing "rumour mill" really is. Wesley Sneijder to Manchester United, Cesc Fabregas to Barcelona (again), Samir Nasri to Manchester City, Harry Kewell to Melbourne Victory, Sydney FC, Newcastle Jets and Al Nassr (I hope that's all of them). These are just four of the incessant transfer sagas that have probably

killed half the Amazon alone in the amount of paper that has been dedicated to them, and for what? How much do we know? How much truth over these deals has been revealed? Essentially, we've learnt nothing. How many times has Fabregas "reportedly sealed a dream move to Barcelona", or how many times has "United and Inter Milan agreed a fee for Wesley Sneijder"? How many times has "Harry Kewell signed for Melbourne Victory"? You see the pattern I am trying to establish here. The reality is, that for all the reading we might do and all the analysis of the never ending stream of reports and speculation, we are no closer to knowing whether or not any of these deals are actually going to happen. This was a point that was brought up on the Triple M breakfast show in Melbourne a few weeks ago. Eddie McGuire, the president of AFL club Collingwood, confessed that when he worked in media, he always felt as though he had a very good idea of what was happening in the world of AFL. He felt he knew all the big players, knew all the inside knowledge and what was going to happen before it happens. Today, as president of one of these clubs, he knows just how little the media know of the inner workings and machinations of a professional sports club. It's a different sport, on a much different scale, but the principle remains the same. Ironically, that hasn't stopped him from "breaking news" where other sports are involved. He announced rather embarrass-



So much nformation at our fingertips. But how much do we actually really know, Mulder?

ingly that Harry Kewell had signed for Melbourne Victory when he could not have been farther from the truth. The media and the clubs are much farther apart than we would like to think, and I'm not just talking about those silly tabloids that use the sort of reasoning that a footballer's favourite food could dictate the player's next move, I'm talking about the big guns, the sources you and I call reliable. If there is one thing that this transfer windo has taught me it is this fact. We learn about what is happening at our football clubs when our football club wants us to know what is happening. This is a harsh reality, and one that is not easy to accept. We invest a lot of ourselves in terms of identity, emotion and even financially in our support of our clubs and it is hard to accept that we know next to nothing about the inner workings of the club. Occasional leaks might occur and yes, sometimes news breaks before the club officially announces it, but by then the wheels are in

motion and of course the club cannot officially announce anything until every final detailed is sorted for legal reasons. So what is the lesson here? Probably nothing you haven't considered before, but it is something that has become potentially clear throughout this utterly confusing and nonsensical saga. Football clubs are run far away from the media's prying eyes which, as a result, directly affects the quality of information we, as fans and mere observers, receive. It is no surprise then that the information coming from the media, even the most respected of outlets, is often so inaccurate or contrary to what is reported by the club itself. What we, as fans, need to keep in mind that what is reported about our club in the media, particularly in the transfer window, is very rarely fact. What we are privy to is in fact, speculation. That is not to say that all journalists lie about their sources. I am sure many only publish what they are informed, and there is

nothing wrong with that, this is not a criticism of journalists and the media, there are plenty of good journalists who do their job properly, but what is becoming abundantly clear is that these sources are in nowhere near as good places as they might believe they are. Premier League clubs are big business, and they are run in a manner that fits that status. There is no gossiping with journalists. There are no board members informing the press of what is being said or who is being targeted behind closed doors. As such, what we read is often at best an aggregation of a series of educated guesses, conclusions based on a chain of events, or on the word of a select few, who perhaps do not know the full story, or anything at all.. They might lead us in the right direction, but they will very rarely show us the correct conclusion, and even when they do, we are still only completely certain when the Club sees fit to announce the news themselves.

LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

Last week Harry Redknapp was speaking about that much beloved competition - the Europa League. He said it was a killer and that Spurs had “no chance” in the Premier League if they went all the way in the competition. *“The young lads will get plenty of games in the Europa League because otherwise I think it’s a killer, to be frank,” he was quoted as saying in The Sun. He also added, “Thursday and Sunday every week... a nightmare. You’ve got no chance in the Premier League with that, it kills you off...”*

This is what is known as getting your excuses in early, to downplay expectations of a top four finish. *Is he right?* At the risk of getting splinters from the fence I’m about to sit on the right answer is it depends. There is a school of thought that says that the Europa League is nothing but a distraction from the main competition – the UCL. Teams playing in the Europa League have to play on Thursdays and Sunday and although I’m not really sure why people complain about this it seems to be an issue for some. Redknapp himself seems to contradict his own argument about playing twice a week. *“It’s different in the Champions League when you play Tuesday or Wednesday, it’s just got a different feel to it.”* So that’s it! The biggest problem Redknapp has is that it is a Mickey Mouse competition and he feels – after one pretty decent season in the UCL – that its where his charges belong. But I have news for Harry, come the end of the season, it isn’t where they are going to be - and it won’t have anything to do with the Europa League - it’ll be because

they weren’t good enough last year to finish in the top four and they’re not good enough this year. The whole argument about whether to take the competition seriously overstates Tottenham’s position. Whereas Harry might be under some delusion - or living in a parallel universe - where Spurs are a big club, at the moment they are not. If spurs fans – and perhaps Mr Redknapp - are honest, the Europa League actually represents their best chance of silverware. There are players at Spurs crying out to play and it might have been better man-management if Redknapp had have said that they would take the competition seriously. It would be the perfect showcase for a long list of players they cannot get rid of – such as Wilson Palacios, Robbie Keane, Jermaine Jenas, Alan Hutton and Peter Crouch. This tactic might even get them into thinking they are an important part of the club. Now that’s the sort of delusion I can deal with. Of course, Spurs did not have to enter the competition, just as they do not have to enter the League Cup or the FA Cup. But they choose to because there is a trophy involved. Harry can use the squad players for the cups and play the first team for league games. Whilst it’s a come-down to play in the Europa League, there are teams like Sevilla and Roma in the same competition. These are teams who, quite rightly, have more cause for complaint than spurs because once upon a time they could take participation for granted. This idea that such a competition demeans Spurs is a joke given their distinctly predictable under-achievement spanning several decades. Such a shame they’ll have to slum-it

Is the Europa League a Waste of Space?



Harry Redknapp



Gervinho



Aguero

with Glasgow Celtic and PSG! He also said to the paper, *“You have to go to crazy places in this Europa League, all over the place - but we’ll give it our best shot whatever we do.”* Come on! These far flung places (like Turkey and Greece and Croatia!) are only a few hours away by plane. Maybe they don’t quite have the same facilities as Spain, Germany and Italy (all of which have teams in the competition) I would hardly call the Europa League venues ‘crazy places’. And this idea that he doesn’t want to play two games a week makes no sense. That’s what you have to do when you play in the UCL so why not get used to it? Why not use this to gain that sort of experience? However, the most important reason for any club to take part is because you just don’t have any guarantees in football. For instance, it could be many years before Spurs make the top four again. So whilst London Calling can sympathise with Harry’s stance it also understands that there are times when you need to swallow your pride and take what

you’re given. The trouble is the only thing constructive Harry has done is give the players an excuse for failure. And if the club don’t take it seriously why should the fans bother turning up? **Premier League Shorts** After a brief hiatus in which nothing much happened in the transfer market (hence the hiatus) London Calling is back to doing what it does worst: predicting the league champions. Predictions are a mug’s game but it’s worth noting that last year I picked Chelsea as champions so in true London Calling style I’m going to curse Manchester City and predict that they’ll win the league title. They finished 9 points away from Manchester United, have been improving every year and they have a deep – and more importantly – a settled squad. They can win matches with flair and with grit. The top four come May will be 1 – Manchester City 2 – Manchester United 3 – Chelsea 4 – Liverpool. Sorry Arsenal and Spurs but you’re out. Although the transfer window has seen a lot of money spent on

English talent, there have been few marquee foreign signings thus far. As the season kicks off next week, it is worth taking a look at the two best foreign players to reach English shores this summer. **1 – Sergio Aguero** Most people know that new Manchester City player Sergio ‘Kun’ Aguero is a speedy little player in the Carlos Tevez mould. What people may not know is that the little fella has a goal scoring record that is equally comparable. Aside from the 2006-07 season – his first in La Liga with Atletico Madrid – he’s scored 19, 17, 12 (injured) and 20 goals. His assist totals have declined throughout the years - perhaps as he develops a more selfish streak - but City have certainly gotten a better team player than their last record signing Robinho. Catch ‘Kun’ (and maybe new signing Gael Clichy) in action when City opens their season at home to newly-promoted Swansea City in a Monday night game.

2 – Gervinho The Cote D’Ivoire international ticks all of Arsene Wenger’s boxes: big, strong, speaks French and is a good all-round player. He won the league with Lille and like a few of their players has moved on to bigger clubs with bigger wages. The 24 year-old started his Ligue 1 career with Le Mans, scoring 2 goals in 19 starts. A year later he got 6 goals and then moved to Lille, where he’s had 13 and 14 goal seasons respectively. More impressive is his 10 assists in 32 league games. Given that Arsenal spread the ball and the goals around he could have a huge season. His only problem is that it isn’t clear if he is a striker or a wide player who cuts in from the left or right. It does mean that Wenger can play 4-5-1, 4-3-3 or 4-4-2 when the player ends his three-match suspension for caressing Joey Barton’s face. *Source: espn.go.com* *Follow me on Twitter @LeroyJRobinson*

Football Takes A Back Seat To Riots

It would remiss of London Calling to ignore the riots that have paralysed London and the rest of England during the past week. Whilst thousands of extra police patrolled our streets most footballers were locked away in their million-pound homes of an evening. Perhaps it is a sign of the times but the usual calls - from Rio Ferdinand and Wayne Rooney – to stop the riots was made not only at press conferences but via their Twitter accounts. These fell on deaf ears and led to the postponement of the England-Holland friendly. I had the radio and throughout the nights the rioting took place, finding it hard to sleep for several nights whilst my city was going up in flames and with sirens piercing the night. The only good to come out of it was that I learnt how to use Twitter - at times finding it very informative and at other times downright misleading. The riots affected just one match: Tottenham’s home match against Everton. This is testimony to the action that was taken by police and also the lull in violence later in the week. I didn’t expect Spurs-Everton to go ahead, even though it’s been over a week since shops were destroyed and looted in Tottenham. The fact is the local authorities haven’t been able to clear up the approach roads to White Hart Lane sufficiently and to have a football match in such circumstances wasn’t acceptable. Later in the week there were calls from Everton’s Tim Cahill to postpone this weekend’s Premier League matches. His argument was that the police, fire brigade and ambulance service would understandably be exhausted from their heroic exertions. “For us [players],” Cahill said, “if we have to sacrifice an extra week at the end of the season to finish off the

games, then so be it.” Though the Aussie – who started his career in England playing for south London club Millwall - plays for a Merseyside club he has lived in London for nearly a decade and a half. Cahill also added: *“We could only play for the right reasons. The main thing is, you have to think about the police who are working day in, day out...the ambulance, the firemen - they are human beings. We need to reward them, people need to help them. I know it’s not up to us, but that is important.”* Heurlho Gomes – the Tottenham goalkeeper – brought home the fact that millionaire footballers were not immune from the riots. Most players who play for London clubs actually live just outside the capital in what are sometimes termed ‘leafy suburbs’ - usually a by-word for white middle-class neighbourhoods. Some live in Herefordshire and others - like Gomes - live in Chigwell in Essex, usually in homes rented from the football club. Last week Gomes told the Daily Mail, *“My home is in Chigwell about 20 minutes from the centre of the riots and that’s a danger. This happens in Brazil but we never believed it would be possible in England. We’re watching the situation all day.”* Gomes is friends with fellow Brazilians Alex and David Luiz, who play for Chelsea, and his argument is that these days if you can’t be safe in and around London you can’t be safe anywhere. *“We talk to know [sic] what’s going on...people think that this only happens in Brazil, these episodes of violence, they think they are safe in England. But the truth is that you are not relaxed anywhere in the world anymore.”* There were several issues that precipitated the riots. The issues are not an excuse for what happened, but did

provide a catalyst for many people, both young and old, to indulge in looting. As the violence spread to Liverpool and Manchester, Liverpool captain Jamie Carragher took the time to have his say. In his column in the Mirror he chose to focus on those young people involved in the trouble. Despite not being my favourite footballer, Carragher (like many players) does a lot of charity work with underprivileged children. It is very fashionable to criticise players for earning lots of money and for being prima donnas, but who would turn down £100k a week and say ‘you know what I’ll take 10’? Regardless of how anyone feels about players, there is no doubt that there are some who take their position as role models seriously and use their status to help others. Carragher wrote, “The worry is that young people [may] feel this is the way they should express any disaffection they have...most of us are from the same working class backgrounds as the rioting kids we week to inspire.” He also added, “I try to let them know what can be achieved through hard work and respect – for themselves as well as others.” He ended it poignantly. “There really are different choices these kids can make and different directions they can take. Rioting is certainly not the answer.” Life, at its simplest, is a series of decisions and choices. The choices we make determine where we are now and where we will end up. The thing players and managers can do is take the lead, and display the respect that Carragher espouses in his article towards match officials. Too often players gesticulate and swear at officials in the same manner the police were subjected to by the

rioters. Their shows of disrespect to authority are shown around the world and seem to be an accepted part of the game. Therefore it was very pleasing to see Phil Dowd not standing for any dissent during the Community Shield. It’s time for us all to treat others the same way we wish to be treated. **And Now For Something Completely Different...** After an interesting (and violent) week in England football matches broke out all over the country. So what did we learn? We learnt that last year was last year and will not have any bearing on what happens this year. We learnt that 35million is a lot to pay for a player who cannot shoot on target (Andrew Carroll take a bow). However, the first game of the season is usually a poor barometer of future performance. Remember, last year Blackpool creamed Wigan 4-0 at the DW Stadium and they now have to go to places like Doncaster and Burnley. So that means QPR shouldn’t be worried about being embarrassed by the same scoreline by Bolton Wanderers right? Wrong! This was a Bolton team that had won just one of their last 18 Premier League away matches so it does look like this season will be a tough one for the Hoops. Then again stats aren’t everything and even Robin van Persie’s 9-game scoring streak in away games had to end sometime, and it did at St. James’s Park in the 0-0 draw with Arsenal. One thing we do know is that whatever happens at Newcastle – good and bad - will have Joey Barton at the heart of it. *Follow me on Twitter @LeroyJRobinson*



The before and after of Allied Carpets in Tottenham.



That’s one way to get rid of the cat stains....



Andrew Marth

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

On a beautiful autumn afternoon in Adelaide in 1995, the Grand Final of the Australian National Soccer League was very evenly balanced midway through the first half. Coming up from his defensive midfield role, the captain of the Melbourne Knights, Andrew Marth, gained control of the ball in the centre of the Hindmarsh Stadium. Taking a couple of steps he unleashed a searing shot which flew past Adelaide City goalkeeper Jason Petkovic and into the net behind him. Marth had done that many times before for his club, but this was the most important of his spectacular goals, erasing the memory of a similar strike in a losing grand final only four years previously. The Knights were to score again before the trophy could be claimed, but in that moment the dreams of two generations of Croatian-Australians to field the champion soccer team in the country were finally and gloriously realised.

Andrew Marth was one of the strongest and most dynamic midfielders in the National Soccer League from 1987 until it concluded in 2004 and drove Melbourne Knights to its first NSL title in 1995. He had one short spell at Green Gully and three seasons with Carlton, but returned to the Knights when that club folded. He also represented Australia 21 times. Most people recall his physical presence but he had a lot of skill and a fearsome shot,

scoring some of the most spectacular goals from distance, including the decisive one in the winning grand final in Adelaide.

Andrew Marth's father Franz arrived from Europe in the 1950s and played with Richmond Allemania. Andrew was born in 1969, and started as a junior at Sunshine George Cross and made his debut in the senior team against Footscray JUST on 6 July 1987 in Round 12 of the National Soccer League at Chaplin Reserve. John Gardiner was his coach and the Georgies were tipped to be relegated, but fought back strongly in the last part of the season only losing two of the final twelve games including a final round win away to Preston. The young guns including Marth, Paul Trimboli, John Markovski and John Campelj were all part of the squad in these games. In 1988 he played 23 of the 26 games as Georgies finished seventh in the league. At the end of the 1989 season Marth transferred to Melbourne Knights where he was to play the most influential part of his career.

For his first few seasons at the Knights Marth and the club experienced the disappointment of reaching the finals, but failing to go all the way. In 1990, it was an away loss to Sydney Olympic in the semi-final. In 1991 there was the heart-break of a penalty-shoot out defeat by South Melbourne in the Grand final in front of 23,318 at Olympic

'Stabber' Leaves His Mark



Andrew Marth.
Photo: Roy Hay.



Andrew Marth in familiar form for Melbourne Croatia.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Park. The score at the end of the match was one-all thanks to Marth's strike after 25 minutes, equalised by Joe Palatsides with only two minutes of normal time to go. That narrow failure was to be repeated in 1992, only this time Adelaide City won on penalties.

Two years later the Knights topped the table again and this time Adelaide prevailed thanks to a single goal by Damian Mori in the Grand Final.

So when skipper Marth and teenage sensation Mark Viduka and the Knights reached the final in 1995 there was a fierce determination to succeed. The following year the Knights finished a point behind Marconi in the league but accounted for the Sydneysiders by two goals to one in the Grand Final. Once again Marth got the opening goal and when Adrian Cervinski made it two, back-to-back titles were secured despite a reply from Andrew Harper. Over the 1995-96 season Marth played 31 games for the Knights and scored ten goals from midfield, an heroic performance. His Joe Marston Medal in the Grand Final capped off an extraordinary campaign. In the next two years the Knights went backwards but Marth's enthusiasm for

the game saw him act as player-coach in the off-season for St Albans and as coach for Green Gully (since he was on crutches at the time), before moving to Carlton for the 1998-99 season. Marth had become disillusioned with the Knights' recruiting and probably needed a fresh challenge. In 1999-2000 he helped his new club to third place in the league and to the Preliminary final where they lost to eventual champion, Wollongong Wolves.

Carlton collapsed after 8 rounds of the following season and Marth returned to the Knights. Again he shouldered the playing-coach role, taking over from Vlado Vanis, and the Knights scraped into the finals where they accounted for Perth Glory, but lost the semi-final to Sydney Olympic. It was a similar story in 2001-02 as the Knights came sixth and were eliminated by Olympic once again. When the NSL came to an end in 2004,

Marth played in the Victorian Premier League with Fawkner and then moved to Green Gully again in 2005-06. In 2005 Ian Dobson brought him in to win the ball in the air and stiffen the midfield as Gully won the Victorian Premier League.

At international level Andrew Marth got his first cap against the Soviet Union in 1991 and was a regular in the Socceroos for the next three years. His only international goal came against Croatia in 1992, when the Socceroos took on the newly independent country's team at Olympic Park on 5 July. It was the only goal of the game. In 1995 he came on to replace Paul Wade in a friendly against Argentina to handle the new Centenario stadium. His final Socceroo appearance was against Paraguay in 2000, and there are many who feel he deserved several more caps than he received.



He flies through the air with the greatest of ease. Andrew Marth, Steve Horvat and Francis Awaratife in action. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



A young Andrew Marth playing for Sunshine George Cross takes on Ian Wallace of Croatia. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

Former Paraguay striker Salvador Cabañas, who missed out on the 2010 World Cup after being shot in the head, made a cameo comeback in a match in his honour between his country and former Mexican club America.

The player nicknamed “Marshall” played for eight minutes for América in the first half and 10 minutes for Paraguay in the second of a friendly at the Azteca, his former home ground, that ended 0-0 on Wednesday night.

“For us the most important thing was that he should feel happy and comfortable,” Paraguay’s new coach Francisco Arce said.

“He’s a well loved lad, he’s blessed after all he’s been through.

Whether he comes back into the professional game or not is secondary,” Arce told reporters.

Cabañas was shot in the head in a Mexico City nightclub in January 2010, months after helping Paraguay qualify for the World Cup in South Africa, where his country went further than ever before, reaching the quarter-finals.

The bullet remains lodged in his head because doctors feared trying to remove it might cost Cabañas his life. Following hospital treatment in Mexico and rehabilitation in an Argentine clinic he returned home to Asunción where he trains as an amateur with first division club Libertad.

“(Cabañas) deserves (the honour), it was worth it for him and the América fans who adore him,” said the Mexican club’s Chilean coach Carlos Reinoso.

Cabañas was shot during an argument in the nightclub restroom by “JJ”

Balderas, who was arrested last January after drugs baron Edgar “La Barbie” Valdez, captured in August 2010, admitted to helping JJ hide after the shooting incident.

The striker had last played at the Azteca on Jan. 17, 2010 when he scored twice in América’s 5-1 win over San Luis in the Mexican championship. His last match was a 2-0 defeat away to Morelia two days before the Jan. 25 shooting.

Former Paraguay defender Arce took charge of the team when Argentine coach Gerardo Martino resigned after the Copa América in Argentina where they lost the final 3-0 to Uruguay.

COPA SUDAMERICANA

A tight and hard fought victory was played today at the Nacional stadium in Santiago where Universidad de Chile made its debut for this season’s Copa Sudamericana against Uruguayan side Fénix.

From kick-off, the local side began dominating possession and attacking whilst the visiting team opted to keep the marking on a much more defensive setting disabling their chances at goal.

It was the blue-coloured home side, “la U” that outplayed the side laid

Cabanas returns after being shot in the head



Universidad de Chile’s Eduardo Vargas in action in the Copa Bridgestone Sudamericana against Fenix of Uruguay played during the week.

out by Rosario Martínez and the first play of the match was a clear chance of risk-taking. A false alarm and the bad timing by goalkeeper Danilo Lerda let Diego Rivarola a header that was cleared by defender Alejandro Silva.

Within the half hour, the turning point for Fénix was the red card for midfielder Fabián Trujillo after a second yellow card leaving his Uruguayan side with ten men on the pitch.

During the second half the flavour kept going at the same pace, it looked as though Universidad de Chile created more chances at goal. It was precisely this where coach Jorge Sampaoli encouraged his troops to capitalise as a result of the creative pieces played on behalf of Eduardo Vargas beating the visiting goalkeeper with a superb header.

With the ease of the advantage of a goal up, the home side kept piling up pressure to increase the scoreline. On the dying minutes, midfielder Gustavo Lorenzetti could have made the margin increase to be only denied by the woodwork.

For the record, Universidad de Chile has taken the minimal scoreline advantage ahead of the return leg against Fénix, to be played on the 18th this month in Montevideo.

Botafogo meanwhile with goals by Maicosuel and by Argentine Germán Herrera won their respective tie played in Ipatinga by 2 goals to 1 over Atlético Mineiro and in an advantage over the two legs in the second round of the Copa Sudamericana which could be compared as the second tier club competition.

The deficit went to Mineiro as the the Belo Horizonte-based club currently plays its games over in Ipatinga while their home stadium the Mineirao goes under reconstruction. Mineiro scored by way of Richarlison, a former Sao Paulo and Brazilian international.

Both squads hit out their strongest line-ups as a priority and not overlooking their poor recent form in the Brazilian domestic championship.

Alexis Stival ‘Cuca’, the new flamboyant boss at Atlético Mineiro had no hesitation playing Richarlison; defender Réver and André up front who have been members of the national squad. Mancini is the other big name back from his stint abroad including Internazionale of Milan.

Botafogo with coach Caio Júnior in charge played out their strike partnership of Uruguayan international and Copa America winner in Sebastián Abreu and Herrera along with renown local stars Maicosuel, Marcelo Mattos and emerging, promising goalkeeper Jefferson.

The Rio de Janeiro club opened the scoring on 7 minutes when Herrera took full advantage of a creative opening by Marcio Azevedo leaving goalkeeper Giovanni completely stranded.

The second goal came as a result of constant charging down the flanks until the 39th minute proved costly when Marcelo Mattos split the defence for Maicosuel and extending the lead for the “cariocas”.

The second half seemed a mountain to climb for Atlético Mineiro searching for a desperate draw until the changes made by coach Caio Júnior proved right but with little time on the clock with an experienced Mancini making an impact on the pitch.

All eight Brazilian teams are pooled into the second phase of the Copa Bridgestone Sudamericana - the official sponsored naming rights tournament name.

Botafogo host the return leg on the 23rd of August in Rio de Janeiro.

The eventual winner reaches the third round to play either Colombian sides Deportivo Cali y and fellow club Independiente Santa Fe or Peruvian outfit César Vallejo who have drawn in the first leg in the city of Trujillo in Peru.

The hottest young 20 players in the Americas

Futebol Finance is a well respected magazine in Latin América and has compiled a special on the future revelations in the game.

On the list of the top 20 feature a number of players plying their trade under 21 years of age, their low cost at the moment and their value in the market.

Other factors considered are the transfer windows that are yet to conclude from the many domestic leagues that coincide with the leagues in Europe.

The list was also a way to collaborate with a number of registered club scouts and FIFA agents to determine the technical abilities and qualities, all of which are perfect ingredients for football clubs.

In the weight of Arsenal’s most recent

signing in Costa Rican under-20 international starlet Joel Campbell, here is the ranking compiled by Futebol Finance:

1.- Bryan Carrasco - Audax Italiano - 20 years - Defender - Chile

2.- Mário Fernandes - Gremio Porto Alegre - 20 years - Defender - Brazil

3.- Pedro Franco - Millonarios - 20 years - Defender - Colombia

4.- Leonel Galeano - Independiente - 19 years - Defender - Argentina

5.- Diego Reyes - América - 18 years - Midfielder - Mexico

6.- Casemiro - Sao Paulo - 19 years - Midfielder - Brazil

7.- Guido Pizarro - Lanús - 21 years - Midfielder - Argentina

8.- Felipe Gutiérrez - Universidad Católica - 20 years - Midfielder - Chile

9.- Matías Mier - Universidad Católica - 20 years - Midfielder - Uruguay

10.- Marcos Caicedo - Emelec - 19 years - Midfielder - Ecuador

11.- Michael Hoyos - Estudiantes - 19 years - Midfielder - Argentina

12.- Edwin Cardona - Atlético Nacional - 18 years - Midfielder - Colombia

13.- Óscar - Internacional Porto Alegre - 19 years - Midfielder - Brazil

14.- Ulises Dávila - Chivas - 20 years - Midfielder - Mexico

15.- Leandro - Gremio - 18 years - Forward - Brazil

16.- Joel Campbell - Arsenal- 19 years - Forward - Costa Rica

17.- Cristián Palacios - Peñarol - 20 years - Forward - Uruguay

18.- Juan S. Agudelo - New York



Salvador Cabañas spotted just before his testimonial match at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City.

Red Bulls - 18 years - Forward - United States

19.- Érick Torres - Chivas - 18 years - Forward - Mexico

20.- Facundo Ferreyra - Banfield - 20 years - Forward - Argentina

Gomez Looses Control Colombia national team coach Hernan Dario Gomez expressed regret Monday after reports that he struck a woman in a bar, saying he lost control and lamented what happened.

Gomez issued a statement that stopped short of admitting he struck the woman in the Bogota bar on Saturday.

“Faced with the personal incident that took place Saturday, which has damaged me, I want to say publicly that I am profoundly sorry for this and for having lost control the way I did,” Gomez said in a statement. “I have always been a defender of women, and I admire and respect them. This act shames me with my mother, with my wife and with all the women in my family and in the country.”

Various reports Monday said he struck the woman, who reportedly confronted him, with witnesses saying she had been drinking.

Women’s organizations in Colombia had demanded he resign as coach of the national team.

However Luis Bedoya, the president of the Colombian Football Federation, said Gomez’s tenure as coach should not be at stake.

“I consider this a lamentable incident,” Bedoya told the newspaper El Tiempo de Bogota. “From the point of view of the federation, obviously we are not in accord with this. This is a personal act that one should not mix with Hernan Diaro Gomez’s job as the national team coach.”

There have been talks however from players unanimously urging to reinstate the well-know and well-loved coach for his actions and the confession in which he faced the public. The news that sent shockwaves throughout the country shall play out a resolution in time for Colombia’s next set of international friendly matches in time for the opening World Cup 2014 qualification round in October.

Neymar to stay put Santos forward Neymar continues to deny the Real Madrid rumors that have been circulating around the young Brazilian player all summer.

Speaking after Brazil’s 3-2 loss to Germany in a friendly in Stuttgart, the 19-year-old turned down any suggestions that he was close to signing with the Spanish club.

“No, no, I’m still a Santos player,” he said. “There’s nothing. I have already said it... I’m a Santos player.”

Neymar started Wednesday’s match for the South American side and was largely disappointing throughout the encounter after nearly missing the game due to a fever and sore throat. But he was able to score a goal two minutes into full time.

Neymar confessed that the result does not match Brazil’s expectations, but stressed his side still need some time to gel.

“This is not the result we wanted, but we need to keep our heads held high to continue the work. We need more time to get things going,” he said.

Corinthians Top

Corinthians have moved back to the top of the Brazilian Serie A after playing out a 0-0 draw with Santos on Wednesday.

A draw was enough to help Adenor Bacchi’s team above Flamengo, who are also on 33 points, because they have won one more game.

Santos were without star striker Neymar and midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso, who were both away on international duty with Brazil.

Former Manchester City midfielder Elano provided a constant threat to the Corinthians defence, but Santos settled for a point to move into 14th.

World Cup Climax

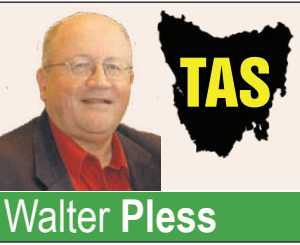
Do not forget to stay tuned with the Under 20 FIFA World Cup in Colombia as the semi-finals decided today shall undergo what has been a surprising and action-packed tournament so far. SBS will screen the semi-finals and final as well.

As always, adios everybody and until next week in the name of football.

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as roma

South Hobart win State-wide Cup in Tasmania



South Hobart won the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy for the third time in four seasons on Saturday night with a 3-0 win over Olympia Warriors at KGV Park.

The final seemed a mismatch as South Hobart recently won the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title, while Olympia just avoided relegation for the second year in a row.

But, Olympia managed to contain the newly crowned league champions until 4 minutes before the interval, when Brayden Mann nipped in at the far post ahead of Craig Stockdale to turn home Andy Brennan's cross from the right and give South Hobart the lead.

The Warriors had not managed a shot at goal in the opening half, but their defending had kept them in the game until Scott's cross found that chink in their armour.

In stoppage time at the end of the first half, Jonathon Lo almost added a second, but his shot just cleared the bar.

Olympia brought on storm trooper Kosta Grillas for the second half in place of midfielder Ben Phillips as if to show they meant business, and it was Grillas's determination that enabled him to win the ball and set up a chance early on for Nick Meredith, but he blazed over the target from the left. Tom Roach shot narrowly wide at the other end for South Hobart, who gradually began to look more menacing and in control.

Ten minutes into the second period, Olympia's Jake Van Der Mey could



Clarence's Paris Crowe (right) wins the ball in the Womens' final against Launceston City. Photo: WALTER PLESS

only get an outstretched leg to a through-ball, but Mann gained possession and advanced on goal before shooting past Jason Voss to make it 2-0.

Olympia coach Franco Previdi refused to settle for the result and replaced defender Jayden Hey with winger Warren Wadawu and midfielder Alex Nandan with striker Omar Shabenah.

The change had little effect, however, and Voss did very well to turn a Mann free-kick from range over the bar in the 69th minute.

Two minutes later, Lo added South Hobart's third with a low drive from the inside-left channel and that was the ball game.

"I thought it was a good win and a good game," said South Hobart coach, Ken Morton.

"We had a lot of possession obviously in the first half, but I thought we were playing in front of them too much and we needed to turn them around a bit.

"In the second half, we started to do that.

"We've had problems training all week and, obviously, we've had a bad virus running through the club. Hugh Ludford and Loic Feral were struggling to get forward and Jim Pennicott had been out for a while with the 'flu this week, but we thought he'd have enough legs for half the game, which was proven he did.

"We started to get Jim and Liam [Scott] forward a bit more in the second half, which gave us a bit more momentum."

The win gave South Hobart their fourth piece of silverware for the sea-

son and they now just need to win the State-wide Top-Four series to make it a clean sweep of the trophies on offer for the second season in a row.

"I don't like losing, but the way we lost today, I don't think we disgraced ourselves," said Olympia Warriors coach, Franco Previdi.

"South Hobart is not an easy team to beat. On a smaller ground, possibly yes, but out here, it's a bit difficult.

"We gave the first two goals away easily, but they were good finishes. They've got four of five players who can strike the ball really well and credit to them."

The teams meet again next weekend in the final round of the league program. That match will be at the smaller Warrior Park, the home of Olympia, which features an artificial surface.

Next Round
Southern Premier League Saturday 20th August 2011 Clarence United v New Town Eagles Wentworth Park 2 02:30 PM
Kingborough Lions v Glenorchy Knights Lightwood Park 02:30 PM
Olympia FC v South Hobart FC Warrior Park 02:30 PM
Beachside FC v Tilford Zebras Sandown Park 1 02:30 PM
Northern Premier League Saturday 20th August 2011 Northern Rangers v Ulverstone NTCA 02:30 PM
Prospect Knights v Devonport City Prospect Park 02:30 PM
Launceston United v Somerset Birch Avenue 02:30 PM
Burnie United v Riverside Olympic Montello 02:30 PM
Launceston City has the Bye.

In the Under-19s State-wide Cup Final, South Hobart downed Kingborough Lions United 3-1 through first-half goals by Dylan Postma, Nick Morton and Cameron Williams.

Anjelo Ojwiya netted for the Lions, who were desperately unlucky in the second half as they struck the woodwork three times.

Clarence United took out the Women's State-wide Cup Final with a 3-1 win over Launceston City in a very close struggle.

Harkana Dixon gave Clarence a 10th-minute lead with a deflected shot, but Jacinta Hall equalised from Chelsea Smith's pass in the 38th minute.

Dixon restored Clarence's lead with an excellent free-kick midway through the second half, while Allie Berry killed the game off with Clarence's third in the 89th minute.

In the State-wide Vase Final,

Tasmania Results

Statewide Lakoseljac Cup

South Hobart 3
Olympia FC Warriors 0

Statewide Vase

Kingborough Lions 1
Launceston City 6

Statewide Under 19 Cup

South Hobart FC 3
Kingborough Lions 1

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Prospect Knights	15	12	1	2	45	12	37
Northern Rangers	15	12	1	2	42	17	37
Devonport City	15	12	0	3	58	22	36
Ulverstone	15	7	1	7	29	26	22
Somerset	15	6	0	9	29	39	18
Riverside Olympic	15	5	2	8	22	36	17
Launceston City	16	4	4	8	26	33	16
Burnie United	15	5	1	9	30	40	16
Launceston United	15	0	0	15	23	78	0

Launceston City overcame Kingborough Lions United 6-1 after leading 2-0 at the break through strikes by Adama Cocca in the 22nd minute and Tom Pinkiewicz in the 32nd minute.

An own-goal by Matt Richardson in the 72nd minute made it 3-0 and Andrew Nichols added the fourth in the 76th minute.

Wayne Quinn pulled a goal back for the Lions 10 minutes from the end, but ace marksman Roger Mies then struck twice in the space of 8 minutes to seal an emphatic victory for the visiting northerners.



Adelaide City relinquished the minor premiership on the final day of the season, drawing 1-1 against Croydon in their Round 18 Super League match at Adelaide City Park on Saturday.

A win would seal first place for the black and whites and it looked good when Jono Negus got on the scoresheet for the second successive match, in the first half. However, Croydon grabbed an equaliser and secured their top flight status as Chris Pepe scored a stunning goal after the break.

Adelaide City captain Nick Budin could not hide his disappointment after first place slipped through City's fingers.

"Certainly it is disappointing to lose first place," noted Budin.

"And not just because of the position we were in during this match, but from the start we had this season. We probably shouldn't have let it get to the last game.

"But we had a talk about it after the match and put it behind us. Now we go into the finals where anything can happen."

Croydon captain Michael Papacharalambous said his side was confident of getting a result after half-time.

"We sat down and said we can snatch a goal which will put us right back into it," said the captain.

"We were aware of some of the results but knew we still had a job to do."

Adelaide City controlled the first half and took the lead after 23 minutes. Eli Vlassis crossed from the right and found Negus, whose header at the back post evaded Kings shot-stopper Daniel Christison.

City could have increased the lead,



Nik Kuzman celebrates another goal fro Raiders. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

but Ricardo Da Silva failed to convert with a header.

Budin found himself inside the six-yard box but tried to take more time than was available and the chance was cut out by the Croydon defence.

Croydon almost found an unlikely equaliser when a Lewis May cross struck the crossbar.

They did get the equaliser ten minutes into the second half as Pepe stunned City. From a Croydon corner the ball went to the edge of the penalty area where Pepe juggled it twice and chipped goalkeeper Luke Ostbye.

City Coach Damian Mori came on as they searched for the winner. It was the former Australian international who cut the ball back from the by-line to Negus, but he failed to make connection with the goal at his mercy.

Best on ground for Adelaide City were Matthew Mullen, Paul Pe-

zos and Nicky Orr. For the Kings, Christison was the top performer, assisted by Anthony Boccacio and Ben McLoughlin.

Modbury were relegated from the Super League after a 0-0 draw with Western Strikers at Jet Park on Saturday.

The Jets needed maximum points to have any chance of survival, but were unable to find a way past the finals-bound Strikers. Western Strikers, who will contest the Federation Cup final next week, finish fourth.

Best on ground for Modbury were Dan Elekwachi, Matt Kelly and Chris Dean. Callum Flanagan, Ambesager Sium Yosief and Michael Russo were Strikers top players.

Adelaide Blue Eagles took local bragging rights with a 1-0 victory against Campbelltown at Steve Woodcock Sports Centre on Saturday.

Both teams went in with their final position already sewn-up and Blue



Skins or shirts? An unlikely visitor interrupts the match between Raiders and Para Hills. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Eagles will take confidence into the Federation Cup final after Kym Harris scored the only goal of the game in the second half.

Captain Michael D'Aloisio was Campbelltown's best, with Toby Nelson and Matthew Deegan just behind.

MetroStars pipped Adelaide City to first spot with a 1-0 victory over Adelaide Galaxy at TK Shutter Reserve on Saturday.

James Yong got the all-important goal in the first half to ensure Metro turned a six point deficit to Adelaide City in Round 12 into a one-point advantage. Galaxy finishes fifth and is headed to the finals.

Steven Grelli, Jackson Groves and Scott Tunbridge were MetroStars best players, while the standouts for Galaxy were Tom Dittmar, Shaun McGreevy and Adam Lecornu.

Para Hills have been relegated from the Super League after Raiders triumphed 4-0 in the relegation show-

Federation Cup Final Details
Western Strikers V Adelaide Blue Eagles <i>Saturday 20th August</i> <i>Hindmarsh Stadium</i> <i>KO 3pm</i>

down at The Paddocks on Saturday. Both sides knew a win would mean safety, and a Nik Kuzman first-half hat-trick, plus a Mario Marcinko sealer in the second half ensured Raiders survived.

Rhys Townsend and Aaron Turner were Para Hills best players. For Raiders, Paul Covino, Kuzman and Matthew Stokes were the top three on the day.

FFSA Results
DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE - Round 18 Results <i>Saturday August 13</i>
Adelaide City 1 (Jono Negus) v Croydon 1 (Chris Pepe) (HT 1-0) Best – Adelaide City: Matthew Mullen, Paul Pezos, Nicky Orr; Croydon: Daniel Christison Anthony Boccacio, Ben McLoughlin, Reserves – Adelaide City 3 v Croydon 0 U19 – Adelaide City 4 v Croydon 1
Modbury 0 v Western Strikers 0 (HT 0-0) Best – Modbury: Dan Elekwachi, Matt Kelly, Chris Dean; Western Strikers: Callam Flanagan, Ambesager Sium Yosief, Michael Russo, Reserves – Modbury 0 v Western Strikers 5 U19 – Modbury 5 v Western Strikers 2
Campbelltown City 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (Kym Harris) (HT 0-0) Best – Campbelltown City: Michael D'Aloisio, Toby Nelson, Mathew Deegan; Adelaide Blue Eagles: Not Supplied Reserves – Campbelltown City 2 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 U19 – Campbelltown City 1 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 3
MetroStars 1 (James Yong) v Adelaide Galaxy 0 (HT 1-0) Best – MetroStars: Steven Grelli, Jackson Groves, Scott Tunbridge; Adelaide Galaxy: Tom Dittmar, Shaun McGreevy, Adam Lecornu Reserves – MetroStars 2 v Adelaide Galaxy 1 U19 – MetroStars 1 v Adelaide Galaxy 2
Para Hills 0 v Raiders 4 (Nik Kuzman 3, Mario Marcinko) (HT 0-3) Best – Para Hills: Rhys Townsend, Aaron Turner; Raiders: Paul Covino, Nik Kuzman, Matthew Stokes, Reserves – Para Hills 3 v Raiders 0 U19 – Para Hills 7 v Raiders 0

Final Standings								
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Metro Stars	18	14	2	2	48	12	36	44
2 Adelaide City	18	13	4	1	46	15	31	43
3 Adel Blue Eagles	18	10	3	5	23	19	4	33
4 Western Strikers	18	8	3	7	22	19	3	27
5 Adelaide Galaxy	18	7	4	7	25	25	0	25
6 Campbelltown	18	6	3	9	17	21	-4	21
7 Raiders	18	5	3	10	24	30	-6	18
8 Croydon	18	3	6	9	11	26	-15	15
9 Para Hills	18	3	4	11	12	31	-19	13
10 Modbury	18	3	4	11	18	49	-31	13

Inglewood nearly home and hosed



Jacob Kagi

Inglewood United took a big step towards ensuring their place in the WA Premier League top-five finals after thrashing struggling Cockburn City 5-2.

Victory saw United stay in fifth spot, despite sixth-placed Bayswater City's victory against Western Knights which sets up a vital finals battle between City and Inglewood next week.

A draw between the two sides would all but ensure Inglewood's place in the finals, while Bayswater would have to hope Western Knights lost their last two games to sneak in.

Inglewood went 3-0 up against Cockburn, with three goals in the first half, but City hit back after the break with two quick goals in the 48th and 55th minutes to get back in the game.

But United responded with goals from the penalty spot in the 70th and 85th minutes to hand Cockburn, which has al-

ready seen its 37-year stay in the top division, yet another loss.

Gustavo Marulanda continued his stunning season to lead Bayswater to its 2-1 win against Western Knights.

The star striker scored the winner in the 40th minute, to add another to his tally which will almost certainly be enough to secure the golden boot.

Gavin Knight put Bayswater ahead early in the game but the Knights levelled through veteran striker Stuart Montgomery in the 37th minute.

But Marulanda's goal gave Bayswater back the lead and they fought gallantly to hold onto it.

Floreat Athena's finals hopes are almost over after a disappointing 3-0 loss to ECU Joondalup.

Floreat struggled to create chances and get in the contest and now it needs a near-miracle to sneak into the top five, with victories in its last two games a necessity to have any hope.

John Thornley scored twice from the penalty spot in the 30th and 65th minutes while Joondalup added another later in the second half to wrap up its eighth win of the year.

Victory was ECU's last com-



Balcatta midfielder Paul Vatistas and Perth striker Andreas Oliveira in action in Sunday's game at Grindleford Reserve. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

petitive match of the year and means they'll finish the season either ninth or 10th.

Sorrento climbed to second with a 3-0 win against struggling Armadale.

Victory in either of Sorrento's final two games will be enough to ensure its place in the top five, while the result condemned Armadale to a finish no higher than 10th.

The Gulls took the lead through

an own goal in the first half and added to their advantage with strikes in the 67th and 86th minutes, before Armadale netted a consolation goal in the final stages of the game.

And Stirling Lions warmed up for the finals race with a 2-0 win against the NTC.

Although it didn't count for points, Stirling's two second half goals ensured victory and gave it confidence ahead of the

final two rounds.

The Lions will likely have to win both their remaining games to have any chance of sneaking into the top five, but will also need other results to go their way.

In Sunday's game Minor Premiers Balcatta were trounced 4-0 by Perth SC which saw coach Ronnie Campbell sacked and replaced by Gianfranco Circatti.

Canberra FC back on top as Tigers hunt top four spot



Russ Gibbs

On Saturday Belconnen United moved into third place with their routine win against Goulburn Strikers 10-0 but it wasn't without a fight in their Round 16 clash.

Jack Blackley was able to give Belconnen the advantage twelve minutes in and then Nicky Rogers doubled the lead in the 20th but the spirited Goulburn defense led by Captain David Albrighton stepped up and shut down the Blue Devils attack consistently through the latter part of the first half meaning Belconnen would only have a two goal advantage at half time. Belconnen were looking for a big win as they face Canberra City next week in what is the Blue Devils last match of the home and away season.

Goulburn were not able to keep up in the second half as their midfield fell asleep and allowed Belconnen plenty of time on the ball. Rogers completed his hat trick in the second half with a brace of goals to Dustin Wells and Michael Reeve helping Belconnen to a handy lead in the second half. Wells' double extended his lead on top of the goal scoring chart making it 28 for the season and a eleven goal difference between him and closest rival Paul Ivanic from Canberra FC. Lee Pietrukowski and Nathaniel Ryan rounded out the ten



John Glass shoots to net the third goal for Canberra FC. Photo: NICK GUOTH

nil win. The win now puts Belconnen in third place but with a tough match away from home next week against Canberra City that will decide their position on the Rock premier League table.

At Deakin Stadium on Sunday Canberra FC went back on top of the Rock Premier League for the first time since Round 13 with a 4-0 win over Monaro Panthers

Canberra FC over the past couple of weeks have been trying to find the class they showed during the first half of the season controlling the game with the majority of possession. Monaro seemed to lack something up front without star striker Mark

Shields but were able to keep their defensive line intact as Canberra FC waited patiently for the opening. Victor Yanes scored a double and goals to Adam Spaleta and John Glass helped FC to their third straight win. Canberra FC coach Rob Graham was pleased with his side's performance as they now look to try and wrap up the Rock premier League with two games left.

In the other Sunday match Cooma Tigers moved five points out of finals with a 4-0 win over Tuggeranong United at Nijong Oval.

Tuggeranong looked the better early and were showing plenty



Steve Lee (Canberra FC) leaps high to challenge Luke McGrath (Monaro). Photo: NICK GUOTH

of flair creating copious amounts of chances, but the United attack were unable to finish. Cooma then started to control the match mid-way through the first half and slowed down the Tuggeranong attack. James Schofield scored the only goal of the half after he was left unmarked after an Ian Elliot cross. Schofield met the cross with a half volley as it was smashed into the bottom left hand corner.

The second half started off differently with Cooma being able to dominate and wrap up the game with three goals in quick succession. It all started when Alex Castro slotted home an effort from long range. Jair Wilk then gave Cooma a three goal

lead when he was on the end of a brilliant through ball from Goran Josifovski. Wilk easily beat the Tuggeranong shot stopper Alex Connell as the ball smashed into the net for his goal. The fourth goal of the match came when Wilk turned provider, he was put through on the right wing and was able to drive a low cross into the 18 yard box finding the feet of team mate Josifovski. Josifovski then hit the ball first time into the net to hand his side a win and a chance of playing finals football in September. The win now leaves Cooma just five points out of the top four with two games remaining.

All Flags WA Results	
First Team	
Cockburn City 2 (Anthony 48, Boyham 55)	
Inglewood United 5 (Sammut 14p, Perich 32, Makeche 44, 85p, Colli 70p); Floreat Athena 0	
ECU Joondalup 3 (Thornley 30p, 65p, Jones 66); Stirling Lions 2 (Watt 55, Arnez 73) NTC 0;	
Western Knights 1 (Montgomery 37p) Bayswater City 2 (Knight 10, Marulanda 40); Sorrento 3 (OG 24, Gurovski 67, Love 86) Armadale 1 (McDonald 87), Balcatta 0 Perth SC 4 (Danskinn 39, Sciascia 73, Sharland 81, 83).	
Reserves	
Cockburn City 5 Inglewood United 2; Floreat Athena 0 ECU Joondalup 2; Stirling Lions 1 NTC 3; Western Knights 1 Bayswater City 1; Sorrento 6 Armadale 1, Balcatta 2 Perth SC 1	
Under 18's	
Cockburn City 2 Inglewood United 1; Floreat Athena 1 ECU Joondalup 2; Stirling Lions 4 NTC 2; Western Knights 2 Bayswater City 0; Sorrento 2 Armadale 1, Balcatta 2 Perth SC 6.	

Next Round - State League Cup	
Inglewood United v Bayswater City	
6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug	
Armadale SC v Western Knights	
Alfred Skeet Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug	
Perth SC v Cockburn City	
BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug	
Balcatta SC v Sorrento FC	
Grindleford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug	
Mandurah City v NTC	
Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug	
Stirling Lions v Floreat Athena FC	
Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug	
BYE v ECU Joondalup	

All Flags WA Premier League	
	P W D L For Ag GD Pts
1 Balcatta	20 16 0 4 49 19 30 48
2 Perth SC	20 12 1 7 39 29 10 37
3 Sorrento	20 10 5 5 33 25 8 35
4 Western Knights	20 9 5 6 32 29 3 32
5 Inglewood United	20 9 4 7 45 36 9 31
6 Bayswater City	21 8 7 6 40 37 3 31
7 Stirling Lions	20 8 3 9 37 37 0 27
8 Floreat Athena	20 7 5 8 34 35 -1 26
9 ECU Joondalup	22 8 2 12 27 42 -15 26
10 Armadale	20 7 2 11 33 41 -8 23
11 Mandurah City	21 5 4 12 20 31 -11 19
12 Cockburn City	20 3 2 15 25 53 -28 11

ACT Results	
Belconnen United 10 (Nicky Rogers (3), Dustin Wells (2), Michael Reeve (2), Jack Blackley, Lee Pietrukowski, Nathaniel Ryan) Goulburn Strikers 0	
Canberra FC 4 (Victor Yanes (2), Adam Spaleta, John Glass) Monaro Panthers 0	
Cooma Tigers 4 (James Schofield, Jair Wilk, Alex Castro, Goran Josifovski) Tuggeranong United 0	

Next Round	
Canberra City v Belconnen United	
Hawker Football Centre	
4:00 PM Sat 20/Aug	
Goulburn Strikers v Canberra Olympic	
Cookbundoon	
3:00 PM Sun 21/Aug	
TUFC v Canberra FC	
Kambah	
3:00 PM Sun 21/Aug	
Woden Valley v Cooma SC	
MC 3:00 PM	
Sun 21/Aug	
BYE v Monaro	

ACT Standings	
	P W D L For Ag GD Pts
1 Canberra FC	14 12 0 2 72 20 +52 36
2 Canberra Olympic	14 11 2 1 52 16 +36 35
3 Belconnen United	15 8 2 5 48 30 +18 26
4 Canberra City	14 7 3 4 45 19 +26 24
5 Cooma Tigers	14 6 1 7 31 37 -6 19
6 Woden Valley	14 4 4 6 46 29 +17 16
7 Monaro Panthers	15 4 3 8 30 34 -4 15
8 Tuggeranong United	14 3 3 8 24 38 -14 12
9 Goulburn Strikers	14 0 0 14 6 140 -134 0

Leading Scorers	
24 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United)	
16 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)	
14 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Paul IVANIC (Canberra FC)	
13 Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley)	
12 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic), Victor YANES (Canberra FC)	

Alvaro Rodriguez's

Planet Football No.357 American Samoa

CAPITAL: Fagatogo
POPULATION: (2009 approx.) 66,432
CONFEDERATION: OFC
FIFA WORLD RANKING: 205th

WHO ARE YA?
American Samoa consists of seven islands in the South Pacific, separate from proper Samoa (which itself was known as Western Samoa until the late '90s). As the name suggests it is an 'unincorporated' territory of the USA and has been so since 1899.

SO WHAT YOU DONE?
chuckles...well, we as Aussies pretty much know, don't we? But for those who came in late – the American Samoan NT suffered the biggest defeat in international football history at the hands of the Socceroos in Korea/Japan 2002 WC qualifying. THIRTY-ONE NIL, thank you very much! Given the course of Archie Thompson's career following his 13-goal haul in the match, the hapless Samoans have something to take credit for, one might say...

BIG CLUBS
PanSa SC and Pago Youth are the two leading clubs of the FFAS Soccer League, the former boasting four titles in the last 11 years. Regardless, one can only speculate their actual



Nicky takes a breather in between making way for the ball

standard if the national team is anything to go by...

REP YOUR COLORS
The national team wears a royal or navy blue top, red shorts and white socks, as immortalised in the fateful match ten years ago. The away strip has a white shirt and blue shorts instead.

MATCHWINNERS (Disregarding the obvious misnomer in this case)
Keeper Nicky Salapu, whose worst day of his career we've touched on enough, still soldiers on between the posts for the national team. Midfielder Rawlston Masaniai, a former San Jose State University player, secured

a contract with German third-tier side VfL Osnabrück in 2009 before being released this June after only managing 13 appearances for the reserves squad.

SO WHAT NOW?
With the 31-0 drubbing a yoke around their necks they'll never fully shake off, it's no surprise that the country virtually disappeared off the football map, apart from Ian Crook's brief tenure as national coach. They resurfaced in the 2007 South Pacific Games, losing all their matches. Now drawn against their neighbours plus Tonga and the Cook Islands in the first round of the long trek to Brazil, time will tell if the tide can turn for this uber-minnow of world football.

HOT: The Socceroos' victory against Wales, if only for maintaining Holger Osieck's good record at the helm so far. Losing the Asian Cup final aside, I can barely fault the job he's done with the boys. Bring on the Brazil 2014 quals!

NOT: That at time of writing, the Harry Kewell-to-Victory soap opera is still not a done deal. If rumours are true he has in fact signed and the announcement postponed to Monday so as to not clash with National Cadel Evans Day on Friday then fair enough I suppose, but all this time could've been used in signing replacements for Victory's recently-departed imports. In any case this has dragged on longer than would be deemed 'good publicity' in most people's eyes, I'm sure.

WAG OF THE WEEK



Aida Yespica Age: 29
Scores with Mesut Ozil (Real Madrid)

Couch Potato Dept.
* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS ONE
Monday August 15th
05:45 AM Spanish Supercup: Real Madrid v Barcelona - 1st Leg. **Live from the Bernabéu Stadium, Madrid, Spain.**
04:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Wednesday August 17th
04:30 AM UEFA Champions League - Playoffs 1st Leg. Live match.
06:45 AM UEFA Champions League - Playoffs 1st Leg. Delayed match

Thursday August 18th
04:30 AM UEFA Champions League - Playoffs 1st Leg. Live match.
06:45 AM UEFA Champions League - Playoffs 1st Leg. Delayed match highlights.
07:45 AM FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011: Semi-final 1 - **Live from Estadio Atanasio Girardot, Medellín, Colombia.**
10:30 AM FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011: Semi-final 2 - **Live from Estadio Hernán Ramírez Villegas, Pereira, Colombia.**

The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Monday 15-Aug
Bundesliga Round 2 Kaiserslautern v Augsburg 3:10am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 2 Lille v Montpellier 4:55am **LIVE**
Bundesliga Round 2 Leverkusen v Werder Bremen 8:45am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Round 2 Auxerre v Marseille 4:00pm 1st Airing

Tuesday 16-Aug
Primera Division Round 2 Boca Juniors v Union 10:10 AM **LIVE**

Thursday 18-Aug
Copa Sudamericana 1st Stage 1st Leg LDU Quito v Yaracuyan 7:55 AM **LIVE**
Primera Division Round 2 Racing v Godoy Cruz 10:10 AM **LIVE**

Saturday 20-Aug
Bundesliga Round 3 Monchengladbach v Wolfsburg 4:25 AM **LIVE**
Primera Division Round 3 Arsenal v Velez Sarsfield 10:10 AM **LIVE**
J-League Round 22 Nagoya Grampus v Vegalta Sendai 8:00 PM **LIVE**

Tuesday 16th August
02:30 am Arsenal TV Newcastle United V Arsenal
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Chelsea V Manchester United 3rd Round 97/98

Wednesday 17th August
02:30 am Liverpool TV
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Tottenham Hotspur V Leeds United 5th Round Replay 98/99
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

Thursday 18th August
02:30 am Bundesliga
04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights
05:30 am FA Cup L'pool V West Ham Final 05/06

Friday 19th August
05:30 am FA Cup Classics Arsenal V Tottenham Hotspur Semi Final 00/01
06:00 am 500 Great Goals

Saturday 20th August
05:30 am FA Cup Man U V M'brough 4th Rd 04/05

Sunday 21st August
02:30 am Arsenal TV Champions League Classic
05:30 am FA Cup Man C V Leeds 4th Rd 99/00
06:30 am Bundesliga
08:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Sat Aug 20 Sunderland v Newcastle 8.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 20 Arsenal v Liverpool 9.38 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 20 Everton v QPR 11.53 pm
Sat Aug 20 Aston Villa v Blackburn 11.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 20 Swansea v Wigan 11.53 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Aug 21 Chelsea v West Brom 2.23 am
Mon Aug 22 Bolton v Manchester City 12.53 am
Mon Aug 22 Norwich v Stoke 3.00 am DELAY
Mon Aug 22 Wolves v Fulham 4.30 am DELAY
Tue Aug 23 Manchester United v Tottenham 4.53 am

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP LIVE
Sun Aug 21 Peterborough v Ipswich 4.30 am DELAY
Sun Aug 21 West Ham v Leeds 10.00 pm

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Semi Final places at stake in Mirabella Cup



Robert Di Fabio

The Quarter-Finals Series of the Mirabella Cup continued its proceeding last week with two fixtures taking place on Wednesday night. The second Pool B tie saw Hume City face Melbourne Knights, while the opening Pool A game was played between Oakleigh Cannons and Springvale White Eagles.

Pool B Match 2: Hume City 0-0 Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium

Icy temperatures, in conjunction with a downpour of rain were the conditions that confronted the competitive teams. In what was an entertaining affair, chances were at hand; however nothing could come to avail as the tie ended in a scoreless draw.

It was the second time the two teams had met, in the space of four days with Melbourne Knights prevailing 4-2 over Hume City on the last day of an exhilarating finale to the VPL home and away season.

With conditions unfavourable for a fluent passing game, it was ostensibly difficult for both sides to contain possession for extended periods. Passes were often over-hit with both outfits still coming to terms with the weather that confronted them.

After 15 minutes both outfits had calls for a spot kick waved away by the referee within a minute. Knights' Craig Sweeney was brought down, although the outcome was a resulting corner. Following the subsequent corner, Hume brought the ball down the other end instantaneously and called for a penalty of their own, however the referee had no bar of it, waving play on.

The Knights had two decent changes in



Knights' Shayan Alinejad comes under close attention from Hume City players in the mid-week Mirabella Cup match at Somers Street. Photo: SIME PINCIC

quick succession, amid Sweeney connecting his header over the bar, then shooting off course from long-distance not long after.

The pressure continued, with the Knights applying numbers forward in search of the opener, however Hume defended coherently and went into half time on level terms.

The second half commenced with both teams continuing to stamp their authority on the encounter, however it was the Knights who looked the more likely to score the opener.

In-form striker Kayne Vincent was brought on for the Knights as a half time substitute and seemingly had an impact on proceeding, causing head-

aches for the Hume defence on several instances.

The Knights continued to press, however couldn't find a way through on goal. Hume were resolute at the back but didn't have many answers when venturing forward.

Conversely, Hume almost broke the deadlock in the 75th minute, courtesy of nice build up play through the mid-field. Richard Cardozo placed a dazzling curling cross in the vicinity of the far-post, where Sam Dehaini's miscued shot resulted in a goal kick.

Yusuf Yusuf almost sealed the points for the Knights in the final minutes. A scintillating effort from outside the box merely scrapped the tip of the crossbar,

resulting in a goal kick.

Both outfits illustrated their attacking intent; however neither team could find the back of the net. The final score of 0-0 was a fair result in the end. A draw for the Knights against Green Gully at Knights Stadium on Wednesday night will be sufficient to guarantee its entry into the Semi-Finals.

Pool A Match 1: Oakleigh Cannons 3-1 Springvale White Eagles at Jack Edwards Reserve

Oakleigh converted their impressive form from the VPL season this season, by trouncing Springvale White Eagles 3-1 on their home turf at Jack Edwards Reserve.



Daniel Quinn

Philip Petreski, a 16 year old rising star of Victorian football has been put in great performances to be noticed by English Premier League Giants Chelsea and Stoke City.

Philip who was born on 13th of March 1995 in Melbourne to Macedonian parents is a left sided versatile player who plays for the Victorian Training Centre (VTC) in the Victorian Premier League (VPL). Philip has been playing Left Back but played a lot of his career on the left wing or in central midfield. The VTC had struggled to find a consistent Left Back until Philip was promoted from the under 21's to the seniors. Despite being 16 he has put in some great performances to solve their Left Back problem.

Philip's father Rubin Petreski was a professional footballer in Macedonia for Prilrska Pobeda and played Central Midfield, a position which Philip has played in his development.

Philip has also played Futsal. In Futsal is where is developed skills like quick touches, pass and move and quick decision making. He has used this skills to develop his outdoor game. Philip represented the Victorian Futsal team in under 13s and under 14s at the Nationals at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra.

As a youngster Philip played for Noble Park Soccer Club, Springvale City Soccer Club, Hampton Park United and South Melbourne Football Club before accepting a scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS). Having a VIS scholarship meant he would play in the VPL with the VTC. Also after accepting the scholarship at the VIS he accepted a traineeship with Melbourne Victory. This meant that he would train with the Melbourne Victory Youth team every day.

In 2010 and 2011 Philip had trials with English Premier League Giants Chelsea and follow Premier League team Stoke City. However due to not being able to get a work permit or having an European Passport Philip was unable to gain a contract. Stoke also weren't willing to pay for schooling. It would have cost

Philip's family up to £200 per week to enrol him into a school in England.

Philip also likes to use some fancy foot work. He regularly like to try nutmegs when running at other players. This is something he picked up in Futsal and likes to impress the coach with.

I sat down with Philip to talk football, trials, Chelsea, facilities, his future, Futsal and much, much more.

DQ: Earliest football Memory:

PP: Winning nationals with under 16s Victorian team in Coffs harbour in 2009.

DQ: Football idols:

PP: Messi and Goran Pandev.

DQ: Goal in football career:

PP: Obviously I'd like to play in the highest level possible and I'd like to get to play for the Socceroos.

DQ: What made you want to play football?

PP: My Dad, because he used to be professional in his country. So he brought me up. I always had a football in my hands. Yeah pretty much because of my Dad.

DQ: Which club do you wish to play for?

PP: Manchester United.

DQ: What are your strengths?

PP: My left foot and my speed.

DQ: What are your weaknesses?

PP: My right foot and my heading.

DQ: How well do you think you have done this past season?

PP: I started off playing in the reserves but that wasn't even a challenge for me so when I got brought up to the seniors it was a bigger challenge but I perform better when there are better players around me. I believe I was consistent and I keep improving every game, I believe.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?

PP: Yeah I do a lot of crossing. Before training I will get a few teammates to improve my left foot and as well as my crossing.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?

PP: To show off a little I guess. If I'm feeling confident then I'll do some fancy foot work



and stuff to impress the coach.
DQ: Do you feel pressure to perform?
PP: I guess there is pressure to perform because especially in the senior team because you can be dropped back to the reserve team. But I feel comfortable under pressure and it brings out the best performance in me. Yeah I guess I can handle the pressure.

DQ: By who though? Yourself?

PP: Yeah I always put pressure on myself to perform well. You never know who is watching. So yeah I always put pressure on myself to perform.

DQ: Are you happy with your current club situation?

PP: Yeah. I am happy with my current club situation but I've been offered at many clubs but I still haven't made a decision. So I'll talk with the VTC as well as my family and whichever club stands out I'll go to them.

DQ: Despite being only 16 you have been playing regularly for VTC at the end of the VPL. You must be pleased with the amount of game time at a young age?

PP: Oh yeah I am. Last year I was watching the VPL but to actually play in the league is a great experience for me and I'm sure that I feel comfortable in the league and sure I am

developing as a player. Hopefully I just keep getting better and try and win.

DQ: Who have you had trials with?

PP: Yeah I've had trials with many teams. I've been overseas a couple times as well. I've been to Barnsley, I've been to Chelsea. That was last year and this year I went again to Stoke City.

DQ: What about in Australia?

PP: In Australia, just Melbourne Heart Youth team.

DQ: What about Melbourne Victory?

PP: Well I was on a traineeship last year with Victory so I was training with the youth team every day.

DQ: Did they offer you anything, contract or anything?

PP: Ah no, nothing has been decided yet because they haven't appointed a coach as well. So they said they will get in contact with us as soon as they know what is happening.

DQ: What did you learn from the experiences at clubs like Chelsea and Stoke City?

PP: I learned that you have to me more physical because in the VPL here, practically ev-

With Springvale already condemned to playing their football in State League One next year, the cup is a grand opportunity to further progress their football credentials and notably extend their playing season, as the home and away campaign for the VPL has concluded.

Springvale were gallant in defeat and challenged Oakleigh throughout the match on several occasions, although Oakleigh class shined through to ultimately clutch victory.

The conditions were outwardly terrible, with Melbourne's arctic weather kicking in. The ground was damp, with rain beginning to pelt down throughout the night.

Whilst Oakleigh showcased their credentials early in the game, it was Springvale who opened the scoring. Alp Cahuzu received the ball and placed a powerful shot to the bottom right corner of the net, leaving Oakleigh's keeper with little hope.

Following the goal, Oakleigh attempted to assert themselves on the contest, lifting a gear in intensity and forceful when venturing forward, although Springvale combated their attack with numbers behind the ball.

Oakleigh's hostile presence eventually payed dividends in the 33rd minute. Hayden Doyle floated in a free-kick from the right wing to flawlessly meet the head of Joshua Groenewald. The subsequent header was timed to perfection, sailing into the top right corner of the goal. It was a well deserved equaliser for Oakleigh.

Both teams had few chances after the goal, as both teams went into the half time interval at 1-1.

The second half began with both outfits buoyant in their prospects to secure an early advantage towards reaching the Semi-Finals. With an attacking foray on display, the game was beginning to reminisce at typical cup encounter-high tempo football and numbers piling forward was the order of the game.

Former Melbourne Victory striker Ricky Diaco ensured Oakleigh would prosper, scoring a nicely placed header in the 68th minute. Diaco leapt highest from the resulting corner, to convince-

ingly beat the keeper.

The resulting goal inflicted an array of self-belief throughout the Oakleigh team, keeping control of the football with slick passing and retainment of possession. Springvale seemed dumbfounded and didn't have the answers to combat Oakleigh's renaissance.

Oakleigh were ultimately rewarded for their dominance and put the tie to bed after 88 minutes. Springvale keeper Nebojsa Vujic attempted to intercept an Oakleigh through-ball, but was left stranded as another former Victory player, James Robinson was first to the ball and rounded the keeper. Robinson then squared the ball to team-mate Anthony Ragusa, who slotted the ball into an empty net.

Minutes later, the referee blew for full-time with Oakleigh triumphing 3-1 in a competitive affair. The pressure will be lifted off the Cannons' shoulders, amid a testing VPL finals campaign on the horizon throughout the coming weeks.

This week's fixture:

After facing A-League outfit-Melbourne Heart on Saturday, the Melbourne Knights will be well positioned to take on defending VPL champions and current minor premiers Green Gully. It's an encounter that could end the Knights' 2011 season if results don't turn in their favour.

A draw will be enough to cement the Knights' path to the Semi-Finals, however a loss by two goals or more will see Hume City progress, due to a superior goal difference.

Given Green Gully have already qualified for the Semi-Finals, their focus will be on their opening finals game that weekend. It is assumed the Cavaliers will be resting the majority of their first team players, leaving a grand opportunity for the Knights to secure a victory, or a draw as the bare minimum. Unfortunately for Hume, they will require a great deal of fortune to keep their cup campaign alive.

Follow Robert on Twitter @RobertDiFabio

everyone is a lot bigger than me especially me. You know? Such a young age. So ill have to hold my ground you know be a lot on the ball and read the speed of the game. In England it's a lot predictable and especially coming straight away. You have to make quick decisions to benefit your team.

DQ: What were the facilities like at Chelsea's training ground Cobham and Stoke's Clayton Wood?

PP: Chelsea training facilities were unbelievable. I had a look they had something like 35 grounds. And the ground was just like carpet, perfect. It was so professional and just to be in Chelsea's training facilities it blew me away.

DQ: Compared to facilities here is Australia like at Monash and Darebin International Sports Centre (DISC) what are the main differences between the facilities in those two centres to the ones in the UK?

PP: Well in Chelsea and Stoke they have at least have about five grounds. All the grounds are perfect. It's all professional compared to Darebin and Monash. They have got everything there in England. Like a dining area for players to eat after training. In Darebin you just get a ground. To be honest they are not really good for you in Darebin because a lot of injuries happen. The Clayton campus at Monash Uni it's good but as soon as rains holes and mud turns the grass into basically mud. The next day you go to training its muddy but in England if the grounds are muddy they are fixed the next day so you are back on a perfect ground.

DQ: Out of those clubs you trialled with, who most impressed you?

PP: Probably the Chelsea team. Yeah the boys were just big, strong, intelligent footballers. The pace of how they trained and the Intensity in their training sessions was unbelievable, but actually quite a lot of them are the best crop in the world.

DQ: One reason that you are unable to gain a contract in the UK is because you do not have a European Passport. How does that feel?

PP: It you get disappointed. I think there is a lot of extra say that you can't actually leave the country until you are 18. I think Australia has to try and keep their players here. The home grown talent. You can't really do much about it unless you actually move over there and then get an English passport. There is nothing really much you can do about it.

DQ: Do you wish to stay in Melbourne or are you willing to go overseas or interstate?

PP: Right now I am happy where I am. I am developing well. Yeah hopefully I can get into an A-League squad to play in the youth league next season.

DQ: Who is that with? Melbourne Victory or Melbourne Heart?

PP: Either. I wouldn't mind. Yeah if I can get into the first team here at Victory or Melbourne Heart I'll still enjoy my football. I'll love it especially because all my family is here as well but football is about operating in the EPL or the Spanish League or something like that. But if I can get the chance to play in the EPL it will be great. If my career is here in Australia I would still be able to.

DQ: You played a lot of Futsal while younger. Why?

PP: Well I guess I saw an advertisement on FFV saying for Victorian squad for Futsal. My Dad and I used to go and play Futsal a lot and just an opportunity to represent Victoria. Futsal and yeah I jumped onto it and I trialled and I got into the squad. Futsal helped me a lot when in tight areas, to make quicker decisions. The pace is a lot faster as well. For my development I guess that's why I chose Futsal.

DQ: When did you stop and why?

PP: I stopped playing Futsal about two years ago. I just really didn't have time to play Futsal because I was training with VIS training every day. Sometimes twice a day. I just couldn't manage it.

DQ: What have you learned in Futsal that you have used in outdoor football?

PP: I've probably used the match speed I guess. In Futsal you don't have time on the ball. So it's basically quick touch in Futsal. I brought that into my football development. Moving the ball quicker, and touches. Yeah that's the main thing.

DQ: Would you consider playing for Macedonia?

PP: Not really. I don't believe it will be the best option for me. I believe I will have a lot more success if I play for the Socceroos.

Many Thanks for your time and best of luck with the future.



Maycon can't stop Anthony Colosimo's strike from finding the back of the net.



Anthony Colosimo celebrates his goal.



Melbourne Heart salute the crowd and their merry band of followers.



Heart head coach John van Schip leads the bench along with Ante Milicic (asst coach) and John Aloisi (Youth coach) amongst others.



Melbourne Heart take to the field in preparation for the new A-League season ahead .



Photos: STEVE STAREK

The mighty Melbourne Knights line up for the kick-off.



Knights captain Josip Kozic exchanges pleasantries with Heart's Matt Thompson.

Knights Show Plenty of Heart

By David Manuca

Melbourne Heart FC prevailed 2-1 against former National Champions Melbourne Knights in their latest hit-out at Knights Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Alex Terra and Jason Hoffman scored in each half, either side of Anthony Colosimo's strike for the Knights to keep Heart's unbeaten run going in the pre-season.

Jason Hoffman came off the bench at half-time to score his eighth goal so far this pre-season. Hoffman claims the team is gelling well and he is happy with his current run of great form.

"When a striker is on form they usually can't stop scoring, and thankfully I've been playing good lately," said Hoffman.

"The team played really well together today and we've got some more games coming up now that we can use to get even stronger before the season starts."

Almost 1,000 fans made the trek out to Somers St to witness Heart take on Melbourne Knights, who

were playing against Hyundai A-League opposition for the first time in their history.

Knights Stadium has proved to be a breeding ground for a number of stars over the years, with Heart's current roster featuring three former Knights players, Adrian Zahra, Mate Dugandzic and Aziz Behich, with the latter two starting the match. New signings Maycon and David Williams were given their first start for the Heart up-front.

Alex Terra and Mate Dugandzic combined well to create the first chance of the match inside two minutes. Dugandzic played a through ball to Terra who forced a good save out of Melbourne Knights custodian Martin John. Maycon registered his first shot on goal two minutes later by trying his luck from outside the area but it sailed harmlessly over the crossbar.

On twelve minutes Heart took the lead through Alex Terra. Trialist Karl Dodd played a long ball up-front to Terra and after a mix-up between defender Adam Zilic and

Martin John, with Terra picking up the pieces and slotting the ball into an empty net.

David Williams tried his luck with a shot from outside the area on 20 minutes with the ball sailing harmlessly away from goal, and he came closer three minutes later after the ball fell to him at the back-post but he hit his volley just wide.

Alex Terra and Williams both had headers come close but the Knights found themselves level on 35 minutes. A corner was whipped into the area and Adam Zilic leapt highest to get contact on the ball but it was deflected right into the path of Anthony Colosimo who drilled a strike into the top left hander corner of the goal.

Triallist goalkeeper Ben McNamara was given no chance with his first real involvement in the game was picking the ball out of the net. A cheeky chip by Kamal Ibrahim to David Williams almost gave Heart the lead going into the break but Martin John came off his line well to deny Williams.

Melbourne Heart head coach John

van't Schip brought on Jason Hoffman at the break, along with Brenden Hamill and Michael Marrone and it proved a masterstroke just a short time later.

A low ball was played into the area and Martin John could only parry the ball into the path of Hoffman, who like all good strikers, was in the right place at the right time to tap the ball into the net.

The second-half didn't live up to the heights of the first with only a number of half chances falling to Heart after Hoffman's goal.

Although with five minutes remaining Nick Kalmar almost turned a Josip Kozic free-kick into his own net, but the ball fizzed past the right post.

Heart held on to their advantage to secure a 2-1 against the two-time former National Champions Melbourne Knights.



Shaun Romein closes in on Wayne Shroj.



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FFA finally finds out Irvine can play



JACKSON Irvine is at the centre of a tug of war between Australia and Scotland but that's not such a bad place to be.

While it's likely that Football Federation Australia's sloth over the past year may see it lose round one of this battle the war is not yet over.

That's because 18-year-old Irvine can play for Scotland's youths and remain eligible to play for the Socceroos.

Right at the time when life couldn't be sweeter for the Celtic starlet the lad from Lysterfield has finally been courted by the country of his birth – five days after agreeing to play for Scotland.

We've been writing about Irvine frequently in these pages for a long time now and while Australia dithered Scotland didn't.

In the past few weeks Irvine has signed a contract extension with Celtic, has been made captain of the under-19s and met with Scotland under-21 head coach Billy Stark.

Stark, an ex-Celtic player, asked the youngster bluntly whether he was prepared to play for Scotland and Irvine responded positively.

Why shouldn't he? None of FFA's handsomely paid employees entrusted with developing our national squads had contacted him prior to his meeting with Stark.

Irvine's story is a lesson of hope for youngsters and parents alike in this country not to throw in the towel when the doors to traditional development pathways are slammed shut in their faces.

This young man was overlooked by a number of coaches at junior level and given more kicks in the behind than most players receive in a lifetime but undaunted he concentrated on his club career which has now taken him to the dizzy heights of an upgraded professional contract with one of the most famous football clubs in the world.

So the lesson is simple. Forcing parents to fork out a couple of grand to allow their children to play at national junior championships is not an essential prerequisite for making it overseas as a professional.

The Irvine family were spared that expense anyway because Jackson Irvine was never deemed good enough to be selected in a Victorian junior squad.

Irvine is in the final year of a two-year deal but his new contract

raises his wages and adds a further year to the agreement with an additional one-year option.

These new terms were negotiated by his agent, Allan Preston, former St Johnstone, Hearts and Dundee United player and current BBC Scotland pundit. Preston is co-founder of the Scottish subsidiary of the Stellar Group, a sports management consultancy, with fellow ex-Saint Paul Cherry.

There is great irony in FFA's sudden interest in Irvine for the national body kept him waiting for months before sanctioning his transfer.

Irvine trialed successfully with Celtic in December 2009 but had to wait for almost a year to secure an international clearance.

His trial with Celtic was arranged at the end of his breakthrough season with Frankston Pines then in State One and coached by Tommy O'Halloran, whose cousin Michael O'Halloran is Celtic's Head of Intermediate Academy.

Irvine played just one game in Pines' reserves before O'Halloran rushed him into the seniors at 16 years old and the youngster walked away with the club's best and fairest award and the players' player-of-the-year trophy.

I had the privilege of witnessing his battle at Monterey Reserve that season with Langwarrin's goal-scoring machine Caleb Nicholes and aside from Irvine's good first touch and excellent distribution the fact that he was undaunted by the physical presence of Nicholes was not simply admirable but unusual in one so young and with such a slender frame.

Here was a boy pitted against a man but this boy never backed off. And that's something Celtic noticed straight away.

While Irvine was waiting on his international clearance he ruptured the ligaments in his left ankle during a 50/50 challenge with his goalkeeper at training.

The physios at Celtic were surprised that he was only out of action for three and a half months and he finished off his inaugural season in style by clinching a league and cup double.

FFA has now invited Irvine to join the Young Socceroos squad in Japan this week to compete in the Toyota Cup against Mexico and the host nation as part of our preparations for October's AFC under-19 championship qualifiers in China.



Jackson Irvine signs a contract extension with Scottish giant Celtic. Also pictured, left to right, Celtic's new under-19s coach John Kennedy, Head of Youth Chris McCart and Head of Professional Academy Tommy McIntyre.

But our national federation's better-late-than-never policy has received the response that sadly it has earned. Irvine's staying with Celtic.

This week he'll lead the Hoops out to face Marseille in France in the first group game of a new under-19 European tournament styled on the Champions League.

And it may not be long before he strolls out proudly onto the Nou Camp to face Barcelona's under-19s given that the Catalan giant also is in that group along with Manchester City.

It's been a whirlwind few weeks in Irvine's life and in many ways his feet have barely touched the ground since his successful trial with Celtic 20 months ago.

At least the Scottish Football Association hasn't messed about. Irvine's Scottish-born father Steve already has been contacted by the SFA and has sent copies of his birth certificate and passport back to them as verification of the youngster's eligibility to play for the Scots.

The whole affair is yet another example of FFA being reactive rather than proactive.

Imagine this scene for a moment. Two teenagers sitting next to each other in the Scotland dressing room before an under-19s match at Hampden and pulling on the home nation's strip, one of them born in Lysterfield, the other in Sunbury.

I'm sure Irvine and the player next to him, Blackburn Rovers dynamo Jamie MacLaren, will have

plenty to talk about.

And I hope that behind closed doors at FFA headquarters in Sydney some hard questions will be asked of Han Berger and Jan Versleijen as to why they consistently ignored the existence of these gifted young men.

I'm tipping there will much finger pointing at that meeting.

Another chapter closes

THE death of Albert Merrills last Thursday, aged 85, brings to a close a significant chapter in the history of the game here.

He was a member of the District League Investigation and Discipline Committee in 1971 under George Yelland and became chair of that committee from 1972.

He also served as Chairman of the VSF Appeals Board and for many years was Dressing Room Manager at Olympic Park.

He became a Life Member of the then Victorian Soccer Federation in the early 1980s.

I shared many a laugh with Merrills and some minor confrontations too. He wasn't that keen on journals bringing grog into the press box at Olympic Park but somehow we always managed to sneak in some stubbies to enable us to be at our peak as match reporters.

There was an ongoing debate as to whether or not the press box was outside Merrills' jurisdiction but at all times we maintained our good humour as argument flowed this way and that with no resolution in sight.

Time and again you had to make a beeline for Merrills as soon as he arrived in the press box because he'd only have a couple of copies of the teamsheets and we always liked to have our own personal copy.

It was first come, first served and usually in a chaotic fashion and looking back on those days now I wonder how on earth he put up with us.

My lasting memory of Merrills is watching him walk away from the press horde with a smile on his face while gently shaking his head at the madness of it all.

His funeral takes place today (Monday) at Springvale cemetery's Boyd Chapel at 2.30pm.

Lindberg with Lincoln

FORMER Fawkner goalkeeper Doug Lindberg has signed a short-term deal with English Blue Square Bet Premier outfit Lincoln City.

Lindberg, who holds Australian and British citizenship, has previously been on the books of Doncaster Rovers over here and was in a Melbourne Victory train-on squad a couple of seasons back. Respected goalkeeping coach Peter Blasby had a hand in Lindberg's development and was delighted with the news.

"When I first started training Doug I couldn't believe that he was in Fawkner's reserves. I also was surprised when Victory didn't offer him anything although at the time I think they had both Glen Moss and Mitch Langerak on their

books," said Blasby.

Lindberg has been in England for some time now and a recent post on Football Buster website cast doubt on his chances of securing a deal:

"Lindberg cut an unconvincing figure in Saturday's 4-3 friendly win at Boston, despite saving a penalty, and has spent the entire summer on trial," it said.

Fortunately for Lindberg, Lincoln City manager Steve Tilson had a different view: "He (Lindberg) has a lot to learn, but he has got a good attitude towards the game and is the type of player we want at the club."

Another Blasby protégé, teenage sensation Dominic Kurasik, is expected to debut with Stoke City's under-16s early next month.

The former Rowville Sports Academy keeper joined the Potters on a two-year deal in June after a successful trial earlier this year.

"I first started working with Dom when he was 10 or 11 and straight away I thought wow, this is the best young kid at that age I've ever seen," said Blasby.

"He was 11 going on 15. Very, very mature for his age. Look, it's clichéd I know, but if he keeps his head right then he'll go a long, long way."

Kurasik was consistently overlooked for state squad selection. Seems to be a recurring theme nowadays.

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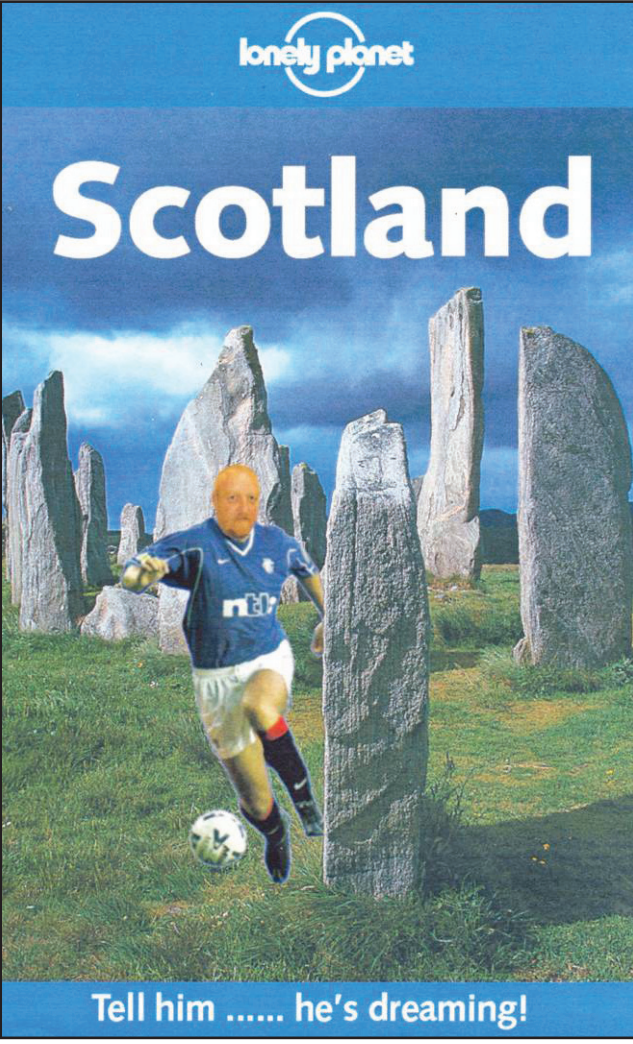
Cracking Football Codes with Macca

We often forget that behind the media veil there are personalities and characters that don't often receive the recognition they deserve for their professionalism and dedication in bringing to sports lovers a regular diet of news year in and year out. At Goal! Weekly we are fortunate to have many talented journalists and one that is instantly recognisable is Craig MacKenzie. This is his story ...

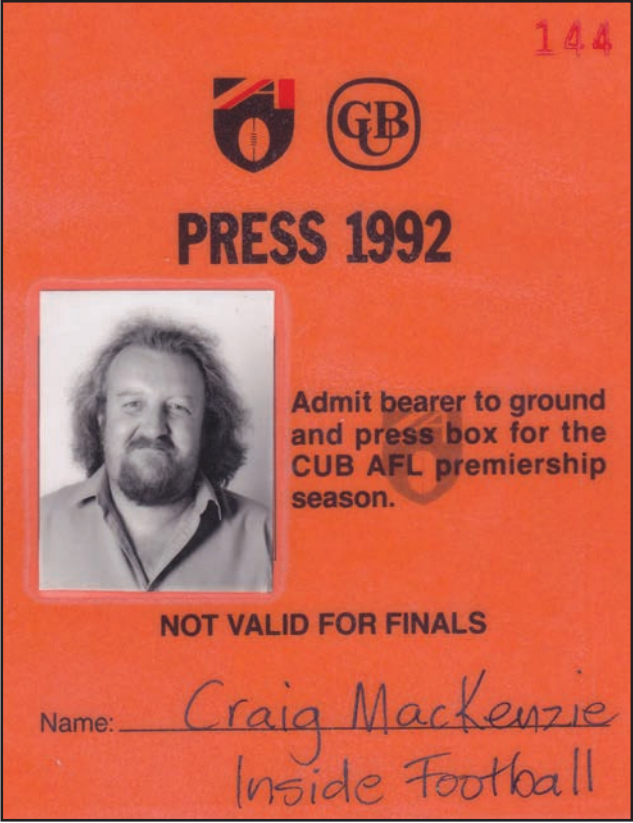
By Neil Collyer

SOME say that if you haven't read an article by Craig MacKenzie then you are just not into football. MacKenzie is considered by many followers of the world game as Victoria's premier football journalist and his columns are receiving much recognition among his peers and the round-ball fraternity at large. However, it has taken a lifetime dedicated to his profession and the sport in general to eventually be recognised as a wordsmith of note and a person who knows a player when he sees one and knows a good story when he hears one. He has worked with some of Australia's trail-blazing soccer journalists and is now spoken of in the same breath as Laurie Schwab, Fred Villiers, Bob Brian, Peter Desira, John Warren, Les Murray and the tartan-bonneted and renowned photojournalist Les Shorrock, who once described MacKenzie as "Australia's finest soccer journalist". The gregarious MacKenzie was born in 1953 in the small English town of Thrapston in Northamptonshire before relocating to his parents' home village of Kinlochleven in the Scottish west highlands five months later. The MacKenzie family migrated to Australia in 1963 arriving in Melbourne on 21 December as legal boat people on board the P&O liner Oriana. It didn't take the youngster long to realise there was another code of football in Melbourne town besides his beloved Glasgow Rangers. However, that harsh reality would serve him well in future years as he also played an integral part in the mainstream coverage of AFL in his journalistic career. Little do people know that after starting as a journalist with The Age in 1979, under the direction of the reputable and much-esteemed Laurie Schwab at Soccer Action, MacKenzie went onto to become Assistant Editor of Inside Football which was Victoria's premier footy publication in the 1980s then Chief Sub-Editor of Syme Magazines. He remembers those early days in journalism and Schwab in particular: "Laurie taught me everything I needed to know about journalism and I will be forever grateful for his guidance, wisdom and friendship over many years.

"He was a celebrated editor who gave me an opportunity to work in a profession in which I loved every minute of every day and words will never describe the gratitude I feel about the gift he gave me." Schwab was posthumously inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1999 for his services to the game after dying of a heart attack at aged 50 in 1997. In those early days of reporting and with his dishevelled "Serpico-look" MacKenzie was once described by fellow scribe, Bob Brian, as the "wild man of Borneo". Brian later recalled: "When he first came onto the scene he looked like the wild man of Borneo and I thought he was just a joke, but after a while I realised that he was indeed a serious journalist." As time moved on MacKenzie became synonymous with "soccer", as it was then known, and was there when all of the British and international teams toured. He has rubbed shoulders with many a star and has shared a beer, or 20, with some of the games' biggest names. There are stories that have become local folklore, like taking Manchester United manager, Tommy Docherty, to a brothel in South Melbourne in the 1980s; or fighting with a fellow journalist in the press box at Olympic Park No 1; or breaking his ankle trying to escape through a hotel's toilet window instead of paying a hefty bill following a rather lengthy drinking session with the Nottingham Forest players after a match at the MCG. "I've experienced some wonderful heart-warming moments, and plenty I would rather forget. "There were some that were more reminiscent of Fawlty Towers, like the time when I was standing next to Fred Villiers, before a World Cup qualifier when they played the German national anthem instead of the Israeli one. VSF secretary George Wallace burst into the sound room at Olympic Park to stop the tape only to find me keeled over with laughter and tears rolling down my face. "John Cleese's character Basil Fawlty would have been in his element saying 'don't mention the war, I mentioned it once, but I think I got away with it.'" While football has always been MacKenzie's first true love it was the other code of football, "Aussie Rules" that allowed him to indulge his passion for all things Collingwood and meet many footy icons along the way. "During the Inside Football days we used to regularly get together with the likes of Kevin Sheedy, Crackers Keenan and Ian Cover, and David Rhys Jones was our sales manager for a spell. "Top bloke Rhys but back then he wouldn't work in an iron lung. He didn't really need to because Inside Footy made plenty. "During my time there I got to know Darren Millane, his brother Sean and their dad Bob fairly well. I had the onerous



Aye ready!



Are you ready, Scoop?



Transfer of the Century

task of eulogising Darren in Inside Football a week after his death. Bob took his own life a few years back. These are hard things to look back on. "Basketball was also big in those days and bumping into Andrew Gaze, Bruce Palmer or Brian Goojian in The Age magazine section was not uncommon. "There wasn't a day go by where you weren't bumping into somebody for a chat, more often than not over a beer at the Golden Age Hotel." One such chat may have given the impetus for one young journalist to get into TV. "I mentored Andy Maher at Inside Football and pointed him in the direction of the electronic media during a blunt one-on-one conversation about his journalistic skills at the Golden Age. I now see him regularly hosting football programs on Channel 10 and sometimes wonder whether that conversation prompted him to have a dip at TV, or whether it was just a 'stick it up MacKenzie' response." "Laurie taught me everything I needed to know about journalism and I will be forever grateful for his guidance, wisdom and friendship over many years." And through all this MacKenzie oversaw the production of Greyhound Weekly, a task that would draw him into the world of the dishlickers and cement a friendship with present-day Melbourne Victory head coach Mehmet Durakovic. MacKenzie, Durakovic, Joe Palatsides and man-mountain Aki Kotzamichalis formed a syndicate and owned a greyhound named Apple Eater. "Aki wanted to call it Arxidra because he loved the idea of big Ron Hawkeswell on 3UZ calling that name on air. Any Greeks reading this will get it straight away." MacKenzie has "been there and done that" and during the final stages of our interview I put the acid on him by asking him to name the best players he has seen in action over more than 30 years of local and international football. "Locally I marvelled at the skills of Oscar Crino, Stefan Mila, Josip Biskic and Zdravko Lujic among many, many others. It's a shame to leave players out of that list because it was great to watch so many of them, not just from the point of view of skill but some of the quirks that they had and there were a lot more characters in the game in those days. "I always thought that John Gardiner was an exceptionally clever player. I used to really enjoy watching him play sweeper and direct traffic. "At Soccer Action we had this crazy ratings system. I say crazy because the idea that you could rate every player from

both teams out of 10 with some intuitive idea of what these ratings were based on is simply ludicrous. But we did it because Laurie Schwab knew that it would be a great talking point and as usual he was right on the money. "I gave Gardiner a 10 rating for a performance he gave for Victoria against South Australia. There was a State League game up at the Gully when I initially gave wee Ian McNeil from Hakoah a 4 but after the game he sent his girlfriend up to the bar alongside me to beg me to give him more. She was a cracking looking bird too. In the end we played pool for his rating and he lost. I think he got 1 or 2. Shows you how much credence I put in player ratings. It also shows you how stupid I am. Like I said, she was a very, very good looking lassie. "Overseas, I loved to watch Willie Henderson and Jimmy Johnstone when I was a boy. And it's thanks to the ABC in the 1960s that we were able to watch Scottish football over here. "Jim Baxter remains my favourite all-time player. Right now there's no-one more intriguing to watch than Lionel Messi and Barcelona is just a football lover's treat. "I'm confident that in the not-too-distant future I'll be adding Jamie MacLaren to that list. He's at Blackburn Rovers and has played for Scotland's under 19s in friendlies but he could revert to playing for Australia down the track. He's a huge talent. "So too Jackson Irvine, who's now captain of Celtic's under-19s and has extended his contract there." MacKenzie is a celebrated journalist with a creditable and honourable demeanour. It was none more evident than when we concluded our interview as he wished to take the limelight off himself and heap praise on some old cohorts of his. "If I had a wish it would be that some of the people I've met along the way also gained the recognition they deserved. The likes of Les Shorrock, Gus Macleod and Bobby McLachlan are all legends of the game here in Victoria and I would love to see them join Laurie Schwab in the FFA's Hall of Fame." And yes, there would be many of the local football fraternity who would echo those thoughts. And maybe would want to add just another name to the list, that of Craig Angus John MacKenzie. It would be deserving recognition for a man who has given much to the sport here and asked for nothing in return except for the occasional cold ale, cigar and scoop for the next story. Next time you bump into him around the local football scene, say g'day and spend some time with him. You just never know. You might be the subject of his next feature. Neil Collyer is a former General Manager at Fairfax Newspapers and is the current CEO of Fineline Printing.

Tanks for the memories and the role of cheating in sports

By Roy Hay

Where do you draw the line in sports? What is cheating and what is not? Last week it was Dean Bailey's hint that in his early coaching days at Melbourne he connived at the loss of games by playing youngsters out of position with a view to developing their talent for the future. Of course, he did not do so in order to lose and hence pick up a reward in terms of a higher draft pick or even a priority one for finishing last! Or so he told the AFL, who believed him.

In all sports, and indeed in much of commercial life, pushing the existing boundaries to achieve an advantage is not just something which occasionally happens, but rather an integral part of both types of activity. I have often argued that capitalism (and sports) depend for their survival as systems on individuals, groups, clubs, teams and companies at the margin continually testing

and breaking the existing rules for their operation. Sometimes it is by means of a technological innovation which renders the existing rule unworkable or obsolete, at others it is exploiting a loophole or an ambiguity in an existing regulation to gain what is initially considered an illegal or unfair advantage. If the innovation goes too far the enterprising operator will be hauled back. At other times the flattery of imitation will follow and the boundaries will shift to accommodate the breach as acceptable practice.

So Collingwood sends its players for high-altitude training in the USA, Melbourne Storm rorts the salary cap, Melbourne Victory tries to get the clubs it competes against to help finance an offer to Harry Kewell to sign a contract to play for the club. All of these examples breach existing rules or conventions or policies, but some will be accepted and regularised, while others will be pilloried and sanctioned. We will all argue about them, buy newspapers and watch television channels which



Whatever it takes: Thierry Henry hands France a place in the 2010 World Cup finals at the expense of Ireland.

debate them and as we do the games evolve. So the AFL and the Australian Cricket Board can systematically and simultaneously promote gambling and wring their hands about the chance that gambling may undermine what they refer to as 'the integrity of the sport' for which they have re-

sponsibility. It is no use thinking that there used to be golden age in the past when such practices did not exist and sport was just a game, unsullied by contact with the commercial world or untainted by cheating and chicanery. My grandfather, who captained Celtic, Newcastle

United and Scotland, later became a football manager at our local club, Ayr United. He said he caught a director of club trying to bribe a referee, but when it came to the tribunal he had no evidence in support of his allegation and was told to apologise. When he did not do so, he was banned for life. The man he accused had been treasurer of the Scottish Football Association for twenty years, but the following year the fellow was voted off the executive, the only incumbent to whom this happened in living memory. The ban on my grandfather was subsequently lifted.

Match fixing is not an invention of the 21st century and examples abound ever since modern sport began. Cheating to win was there at the dawn of sport. Our own Tom Wills was no-balled for round-arm bowling in the 1860s. Geelong and Melbourne could not agree on the rules of the Victorian game in that decade, because we wanted to pick up the ball and run with it, while Melbourne did not.

Geoffrey Blainey argued that one of the great virtues of Australian football is that it has continued to evolve and the rules are always changing to accommodate or limit the boundary-challenging or 'cheating' which has gone on since it emerged as a distinct code in the mid-nineteenth century. I think the argument applies to all sports which have survived, including Association football which is currently trying to tackle match fixing, corruption and decision making by officials by the use of technology as well as trying to level playing fields by insisting that clubs live within their income. That leaves aside the sharp practice over World Cup hosting bids and the election of the president.

Much as we would like to see a time when sport is pure and unsullied by cheating or chicanery, I am afraid that will never happen and we have to learn that sport, as in much else, mirrors our imperfect, but changing and challenging world.



BOO'S WORLD

A look at the lighter side of football.

With Mark Boric

As we are about to enter another wave of the Global Financial Crisis, it's time to wonder how many Victorian football clubs will go broke.

A look at some recent fines imposed by the FFV Tribunal shows some teams will have to find some serious coin. St Kevin's Old Boys from the Metropolitan League incurred a \$7,500 penalty from a game at Endeavour Hills. An under 14's player from Lyndale United was suspended for 10 years and the club fined \$6500. A melee in a Thirds League game saw North Sunshine Eagles fined \$4500 and Glenroy Bears cop a \$4000 whack. Showing there is full equality in Victorian soccer, Casey Comets were fined \$3000 and deducted three points in the Women's Victorian Premier League.

Where will the money to pay these fines come from? We are not looking at large, well sponsored and supported clubs. We are talking about grass roots juniors and social teams. Despite the heavy financial burden of these fines, the message does not seem to be getting through or the system isn't working, because the cases continue to mount.

The English Premier League season has begun, but not for Tottenham Hotspur and Everton who's first round fixture was postponed due to the widespread riots in London. The police

were otherwise engaged and unable to cover the match, whilst the cost of flying in the Blue Thunder Security team was obviously considered too prohibitive.

Melbourne Victory were beaten in a friendly again, this time 3-2 by Bentleigh Greens. Ernie Merrick may have been rubbish in Asia, but he never had a problem in pre-season games against VPL clubs. Melbourne Heart defeated Melbourne Knights 2-1. It would have been interesting to see the A-League clubs take on the AVPL sides in actual competitive games like the Mirabella Cup.

It was a dramatic final round in the AVPL, with several sides crumbling under the pressure of being able to claim the Minor Premiership allowing Green Gully to slip through and take the crown. With so many teams choking, it will be perennial contenders Gully who are in the box seat once again in the Finals.

Craig Foster wants John Boulton's head over the recent poor performances of Australia's youth teams. Boulton's biggest failing has been being part of the process of selecting the wrong and second rate Dutch coaches. His rowing background may not be of much use in this regard, but for a so-called football expert Foster has failed to pick up on these dodgy appointments until their ineptitude has been well and truly exposed a long

way down the track.

Holger Osieck is no second-rate Dutchman and has the Socceroos looking good, impressively defeating Wales 2-1 midweek. Have the Moroccans thrown Pim Verbeek in jail yet? What is the punishment for fraud over there?

Mark Schwarzer has revealed he will not play in the A-League after he concludes his career in Europe. Which is a shame, not because we won't get to see him in action, but because he could have dragged out which club he was signing for like Harry Kewell over several years.

The bulk of this column was written whilst trying to watch the AVPL Elimination Final on VPL LiveTV, I say try, because though working perfectly well for the bulk of the match, the stream cut out for two minutes only to return with South Melbourne players running back for kick-off after having taken the lead. Then it cut out after a penalty was awarded to Heidelberg United, meaning I missed the crucial double save. Surely the fines revenue exceeding budgeting means this can be rectified in future?

Tonight on the ABC Four Corners will be looking at the demise of North Queensland Fury. Will they trace it all back to appointing Iain Ferguson as coach instead of Phil Stubbins?



KATSA'S KORNER

Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.

With George Katsamboukas

What an exciting finish to the VPL Season it was, where four of the five teams in the Top 5 could have secured top spot, and along with it, the Second Chance plus as an Extra Ball, a weeks rest.

Green Gully, by doing the Business over the Bentleigh Greens secured top spot, with Heidelberg certainly rooing their inability to beat Relegated Springvale White Eagles.

Whilst we are at it, Oakleigh's Draw against Dandenong Thunder, and Hume's loss to the Melbourne Knights, also cost them top spot.

An exciting last round match was played out at Port Melbourne, Home of the Sharks, where Northcote City took on South Melbourne.

Northcote needed to win to get into the Finals, whilst for South a Draw was enough.

An action packed first Half saw each team scoring 3 goals a piece, and Northcote will be certainly disappointed that they

let a 2 Goal advantage slip, allowing South to come back from 3-1, to equalise at 3-3.

Could this be the year of our very own GW columnist Eddie Krncevic to take his troops all the way, especially after getting their derby monkey off their back with a 1-0 win over rivals Heidelberg United yesterday.

Over to the UK we go, where the EPL commenced.

The Local Punters were awaiting the commencement of this League with great anticipation, as it will mean that they will be spending many late nights in front of their Foxtel Boxes, taking in all of the action.

Necessary tools of trade that will assist them will be, and in no particular order, J Walker, No Doze, WN Field, V Bitter and Samboy Chips.

Melbourne Victory have inched a touch closer to signing Harry "Politix" Kewell, after they signed a conditional contract that will elapse on August

30th, as Kewell's Management wants Harry to be in control of his "Image" and "Naming Rights", and as such, negotiations are now taking place with the FFA for this to occur.

Whilst I admire what Harry Kewell has done as a player in the past, where he has no doubt been an absolute stand out, I have my doubts on a couple of things, should the deal eventually go through.

Firstly, is his Body up to it as he has been injury prone of late.

Secondly, will his signing equate to increased backside seats.

Last but not least, how will Harry go taking instructions from a relatively inexperienced Coach on Durakovic?

Time will tell I guess....

Until next week



Tonight's Letters and Numbers: Four Corners - Which was coincidentally the total amount of corners North Qld Fury ever won during their time in the A-league....

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 18

Provi SE 3
East Bentleigh v Middle Park FC
Bailey Reserve
Whitehorse Utd v Collingwood City
Terra Park
Old Trinity Grammarians v Noble Park
Trinity Sports Ground
Rouville Eagles v Eltham Redbacks FC
Park Ridge Reserve
White Star Dandenong v Brighton
Greaves Reserve
Old Brighton Grammarians v Baxter
Dendy Park

Seniors

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Reserves

Balmoral FC 1 (D Ajing) Watsonia Heights 4, Brimbank Stallions 1 Heidelberg Stars 1, Essendon Royals 10 (A Bianco M Grosso M Strasser 3 A Sirin 4 S Bovalino) Mill Park 1, Meadow Park Eagles 3 (P Marazita A Andronaco J Goodwin) Melton Phoenix FC 1, Moreland Wolves 3 Youth Utd 1, Brunswick Zebras 5 Darebin Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Brunswick Zebras	18	14	1	3	67	22	43
Essendon Royals	18	12	3	3	61	34	39
Heidelberg Stars	18	11	4	3	48	27	37
Moreland Wolves	18	11	4	3	47	26	37
Brimbank Stallions	18	8	5	5	41	31	29
Darebin Utd	18	8	4	6	30	29	28
Watsonia Heights	18	7	3	8	40	30	24
Meadow Park Eagles	17	6	3	8	26	32	21
Balmoral FC	18	3	4	11	37	52	13
Melton Phoenix FC	18	3	4	11	17	41	13
Youth Utd	17	3	2	12	16	51	8
Mill Park	18	2	1	15	16	71	7

Balmoral FC 2 (A Smajic 2) Watsonia Heights 2, Brimbank Stallions 3 Heidelberg Stars 3, Essendon Royals 4 (F Milne G Apostolidis R Marchioli MJ Galea) Mill Park 2, Meadow Park Eagles 0 Melton Phoenix FC 3, Moreland Wolves 6 Youth Utd 2, Brunswick Zebras 5 Darebin Utd 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Watsonia Heights	18	15	2	1	68	14	4
Heidelberg Stars	18	12	2	4	78	31	3
Brimbank Stallions	18	11	3	4	31	18	3
Brunswick Zebras	18	11	2	5	55	21	3
Melton Phoenix FC	18	10	2	6	33	28	3
Moreland Wolves	18	9	3	6	50	28	3
Essendon Royals	18	7	1	10	35	34	2
Balmoral FC	18	4	5	9	26	36	1
Darebin Utd	18	4	3	11	21	46	1
Meadow Park Eagles	17	4	2	11	9	57	1
Youth Utd	17	4	1	12	29	62	1
Mill Park	18	3	0	15	10	70	

[illegible]

Seniors		PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST										Reserves																	
Baxter 3 (R Wilson) Old Trinity Grammarians 0, Collingwood City 0 Old Brighton Grammarians 3, Noble Park 2 Rowville Eagles 0, Brighton 1 (C Brady) Whitehorse Utd 1, Middle Park FC 8 (A Cook M Furness N Meade M Tidd 4 K Hogan) White Star Dandenong 0, Eltham Redback FC 4 East Bentleigh 3 (L Brooks K Keane 2)															Baxter 4 (B Norris S Drew R Thompson D Disseldorp) Old Trinity Grammarians 0, Collingwood City 0 Old Brighton Grammarians 0, Noble Park 2 Rowville Eagles 3, Brighton 1 (C Ogden) Whitehorse Utd 5, Middle Park FC 5 White Star Dandenong 0, Eltham Redback FC 0 East Bentleigh 2 (D Coppock M Prantzos)														
		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T			P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T										
Middle Park FC		18	15	1	2	72	13	46		Old Brighton Grammarians		18	14	3	1	47	19	45											
Collingwood City		18	15	0	3	49	16	45		Collingwood City		18	12	5	1	59	18	41											
Whitehorse Utd		18	12	3	3	41	21	39		Middle Park FC		18	12	4	2	56	21	40											
Old Brighton Grammarians		18	10	2	6	47	31	32		Baxter		18	11	2	5	60	38	35											
Rowville Eagles		18	8	2	8	34	34	26		Whitehorse Utd		18	9	1	8	46	40	28											
Baxter		18	8	1	9	38	36	25		Brighton		18	7	2	9	29	46	23											
Brighton		18	7	3	8	32	33	24		Old Trinity Grammarians		18	7	1	10	31	35	22											
Noble Park		18	7	2	9	37	51	23		Rowville Eagles		18	6	2	10	29	49	20											
White Star Dandenong		18	6	1	11	28	57	19		Eltham Redback FC		18	5	3	10	24	40	18											
Old Trinity Grammarians		18	5	2	11	30	50	17		White Star Dandenong		18	5	0	13	40	56	15											
Eltham Redback FC		18	4	2	12	24	51	14		East Bentleigh		18	2	5	11	28	55	15											
East Bentleigh		18	1	1	16	22	61	4		Noble Park		18	3	2	13	27	59	11											



Crunch-time arrives as seasons hang in the balance

By Michal Skrodsky

Folks it's been another great week of local football action, the pointy end of the season is coming with teams getting desperate, whether it be for promotion or to stay up. Teams are fighting to the end. Like always, let's have a look at how this week's suburban scraps played out.

State 2 NW has really heated up. Werribee City had a season defining win over top dog Moreland City 2-1 in the Moreland kennel, which sees the Bees leap-frog Moreland into first place. The chasing pack of Brunswick City, Whittlesea Ranges and Ballarat all recorded important wins to keep pressure on the top two. The table is a little deceiving as many teams a one or even two catch up games to be played. Banyule won their second game of the season after winning their first just last week, this week they got up 2-0 at Geelong, if the Bulls manage to stay up it will truly be the great escape as two weeks ago they looked gone for all money. Next week sees Part 2 of the epic Altona derby, Altona City will be hosting Altona East and will be keen to get back at East after going down 2-0 at Paisley Park earlier this year.

State 2 SE saw Dandenong City enjoy a cruise down at Diamond Valley as the danced their way to a 4-1 win. The win sees them maintain their 8 point buffer over second placed Malvern City, who also won this week: 5-2 over struggling Heatherton. Dandenong might even be celebrating the championship and promotion if they win at home over Box Hill and Malvern drop points to Doncaster Rovers. In the chase for second spot, Box Hill had a crucial 2-1 win over Morwell Pegasus.

State 3 NW has Keilor Park still on top by 6 points and a win next week will see them as good as promoted to State League Division 2 NW. Keilor got back to their winning ways with a 3-2 win over Cairnlea but it only came thanks to a 87th minute winner from Grant Mussel. La Trobe Uni had a 2-1 win at Maribyrnong Greens and remain in second 3 points ahead of third placed Yarraville Glory who had a thrilling 5-4 win over



State SE 2 - Dario Matkovic scored the second goal for Dandenong City away to Diamond Valley, clearly exciting the fans that made the trip to support their team. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Provisional League bound Geelong Rangers. Next week there is a huge promotion battle, La Trobe host Yarraville where a La Trobe win would see them all but promoted.

State 3 SE had Kingston City smashed Old Scotch 4-0 in a massive promotion battle last Monday. Kingston backed this up with a 3-0 win on the road over Croydon City on Friday meaning the Reds from Kingston have a 5 point gap over Old Scotch in third. Mornington are still on top but only by 1 point, the Seagulls had a exciting 4-3 win over North Caulfield this Sunday. Frankston Pines have also been officially relegated from State 3 SE after a 1-1 draw with Berwick City, meaning it has been 4 relegations in 4 seasons. What has happened to this once proud club? Next week sees another huge crunch match at the Grange Reserve on a Monday, with Kingston hosting Mornington in a heavy weight battle for top spot.

Provisional 1 NW might have seen early pace setters, Corio, fall off

the pace completely this week. The boys from Hume Reserve lost 1-0 at Westvale and are now in fourth and 5 points off second place. The other three teams fighting for promotion all had wins. North Sunshine beat North City Lions 2-0 and are in first and are on 39 points, Sporting Whittlesea had a hard fought 2-1 win at the mighty Western Eagles and are on 37 points and the boys from Fawkner Park, South Yarra, smashed Laverton Park 6-1 and are on 35 points. Next week South Yarra take on North Sunshine in a huge promotion battle.

Provisional 1 SE remains the same up the top of the table with Springvale City on top following a 3-1 win at Hampton Park and Beaumaris in second one point off Springy after a smashing 6-3 win at Lyndale, but as mentioned last week Beauy has played one less game. Third placed Old Melburnians lost ground on the top two following a 0-0 draw over Old Camberwell. Next week eyes will turn to the bottom of the ladder as the bottom two teams, Skye

United and Lyndale United, will go punch for punch.

Provisional 2 NW had Moreland United and Hoppers Crossing play out an epic promotion tussle. Moreland playing away went 2-0 up, only concede two goals in 3 minutes in the 70th and 73rd minute respectively. Moreland rallied and scored two more in the 80th and 90th to take the 4-2 win. The win sees Moreland jump back into top spot on goal difference after West Preston only managed a point to second last Northern Roosters in a 2-2 draw. Epping had a 2-0 win over Melbourne Tornado and are still in the hunt as they are only 3 points off top.

Provisional 2 SE remains a tight battle and it is no yet clearer who will be going up and who will be going down. Caulfield managed to keep league leaders Monbulk to a 0-0 draw and keep themselves in the race for promotion. Riversdale were the biggest movers this week with a 4-1 win over fellow promotion candidates Seaford



State SE 2 - Ivan Klarica thrilled to score the 3rd out of four goals for Dandenong City. Photo: ANITA MILAS

United. Riversdale are now in second 3 points clear of 3rd and 4th, but in 4th is Endeavour United who have 2 games in hand and drew this week 1-1 with Bayside Argonauts. Monbulk are on top by 4 points with a game in hand and looks like barring a major implosion, they will get promoted this season.

Provisional 3 NW had the Essendon Royals bring the pain to the Mill Park boys, the Royals smashed 10 past the Parkers who only managed one in reply. The win sees Essendon in outright second on 39 points. On top and in fine form are the Brunswick Zebras who have collected 43 points this far following a 5-1 thumping of Darebin United. Heidelberg Stars and Moreland Wolves are third and fourth respectively but both are on 37 points. Moreland Wolves overcame Youth United 3-1 while the Stars had a 1-1 draw with the Brimbank Stallions.

Provisional 3 SE had another massive shock, runaway leaders Col-

lingwood City were well and truly smashed in a 3-0 loss to Old Brighton. Middle Park have now moved back into top spot after a huge 8-0 win over White Star Dandenong. Miles Tidd bagged 4 goals in this game for the Parkers. Whitehorse were held 1-1 by Brighton and there promotion dreams are all but over, they are now 6 points off Collingwood in second. At the other end of the table, Eltham Redbacks had a great 4-1 win over last placed East Bentleigh which has all but relegated the boys from Bailey Reserve back to the Metro Leagues. Next week it is do or die for Whitehorse United has they host Collingwood City.

Well folks, only 4 rounds remaining. It is really heating up with some teams facing do or die matches, if that is your team that your team needs you more than ever! Get down there and watch your boys, because when the season is over you'll miss the wintery Saturday afternoons!!!

CRUNCHALOR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



State SE 3: Riversdale players celebrate after scoring against Seaford United in their 3-1 win. Photo: PETER PSARROS



State SE 2: Morwell Pegasus sub Wise Barakzoi comes off worst as Box Hill United's Jungho Kim is sandwiched between himself and Jason Rand. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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goal! Weekly

By Niki Cook

The last day of the Women's Premier League had the potential to provide plenty of drama, with all of Sunday's five matches having some bearing on finals or relegation, and fortunately the day lived up to its billing as the action unfolded. There were goals galore as teams battled to secure their WPL status, with the match that goalless seeing Altona relegated, and Box Hill missing out on finals. Sandringham took out the minor premiership, South has the double chance despite losing, and Heidelberg and Casey will also play finals.

Before the 'Super Sunday' end to the home and away season, there were two big matches on Wednesday night, with Altona City taking on the Emerging Athlete Program at DISC, and Bundoora United playing Heidelberg United at Epping Soccer Stadium.

With both Bundoora and Altona scrapping to avoid relegation, and Heidelberg looking to cement a spot in the top four, there was plenty at stake. Altona grabbed a vital three points with a 4-1 victory over the EAP, with two goals in each half. It lifted it to 25 points, and more importantly ahead of Ashburton on the ladder. In the other match, Heidelberg made certain of its place in the finals, and left itself in with a shout of securing the double chance with a 1-0 victory over Bundoora. Elise Kyrgios scored the game's only goal on the half hour to defeat Bundoora, which would have to wait until the final day of the season to ensure it was mathematically safe from relegation.

Paisley Park was the venue for the match between South Melbourne Women's and Sandringham, with the two sides battling it out for the minor premiership. Sandringham held the advantage going into the game, needing only a draw to claim top spot on the ladder, but both sides were already guaranteed to play finals.

Despite having lost last time the sides met, Sandringham took control of the match from the outset, scoring three unanswered first half goals to all but kill off the match. It opened the scoring through Ashley Brown on eighteen minutes, before extending its lead with two goals in the last two minutes of the first half from Hannah Stuart and Emma Runnalls. Marcela Marques pulled a goal back for South just after the hour, but the visitor reclaimed its three-goal lead seven minutes from time through Stephanie Catley to emphatically claim the minor premiership.

The football gods, however, must have been smiling on South, as despite suffering its heaviest defeat of the season, other results proved favourable and it maintained second place on the ladder and the double chance in the finals that goes with it.

Heidelberg United hosted Ashburton at Olympic Village knowing that victory could give it the double chance, while Ashburton needed to win to be in with a chance of avoiding relegation. In the end, the desire to avoid the drop proved greater, with Ashburton recording its second biggest victory of the season to secure its WPL future for a ninth consecutive year.

Ashburton will have had some confidence going into the game, having beaten United 3-0 last time the sides met, and it took the lead twenty minutes in, before doubling its advantage ten minutes before the interval. The home side pulled a goal back shortly before half time, but that proved to be the last time it found the net.

Ashburton added a further two goals in the last twenty minutes of the match to seal its eighth victory of the season and guarantee its WPL status. Heidelberg ends the season third on the ladder, with a home final next weekend.

A quirk of the fixture meant that Doncaster Rovers and Bundoora United, who faced off in the opening round of the season, didn't meet again until this, the final round of the year. With Doncaster already condemned to an immediate return to State League 1, Bundoora needed to win to ensure it didn't suffer the same fate. It did so in a fairly emphatic fashion, scoring twice



Sandringham had plenty to celebrate yesterday with an emphatic win over South Melbourne to clinch the WPL minor title. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Sienna Fogarty (Sandringham) fires the ball back over her head as South Melbourne's Clare Duck (left) and Tiffany Eloadis (observed) close in on her. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

in each half to record its biggest victory of the season and guarantee its participation in the WPL for a second year. It left it late in each half to find the net, however, scoring twice in the last five minutes of the first period, and with both second half goals coming in the last fifteen minutes. Enza Barilla, Stephanie Galea, Erin Herd and Megan Archer each scored once in the triumph, which saw Bundoora end its first top flight campaign in sixth place. Doncaster, which was at least competitive in the second half of the season, finishes the season tenth.

Having been in the top four for the entirety of the season, it appeared that Casey Comets had sabotaged its own campaign, with the sending off last weekend of its coach, Ian Williamson. The dismissal resulted in Casey being deducted three points at the tribunal during the week, and dropping below

Box Hill United on the ladder. Casey had the advantage of facing bottom side VCL Country at Comets Stadium in its final match, but it needed to win, and then rely on Altona City denying Box Hill victory if it was to regain fourth spot on the ladder. Casey did all that it could on the field, recording a comfortable 4-0 win over Country; two goals in the opening twenty minutes, and a further two in the final fifteen secured the points for the home side.

Altona City and Box Hill United met at HC Kim Reserve in a match that was crucial for both sides for very different reasons. Having given itself every chance of survival with victory over the EAP on Wednesday night, Altona needed to match or better Ashburton's result to secure its place in the WPL. Box Hill, which started the day in fourth place, needed to win to be certain of playing in the finals. As it



South Melbourne's Tiffany Eliadis (centre) and Christie Parton (Sandringham) contest a header. Paige Doods awAits the outcome. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

transpired, the match ended in a stalemate, a 0-0 draw, but as a result, both sides lost.

With Ashburton and Bundoora both winning, Altona found itself joining Doncaster Rovers in being relegated to State League 1. The heartbreak for Altona came despite a strong finish to the season, which saw it unbeaten in its final four matches, and holding United goalless for only the second time this year. Box Hill, Premier for five of the last six seasons and Grand Finalist in every year since the finals were introduced, suffers perhaps greater ignominy, missing the finals for the first time on goal difference. It ends the campaign level with Casey Comets on 34 points, but with a slightly inferior goal difference, and so finishes in fifth place.

Next weekend sees the start of the WPL finals, with the times and venues

for the matches yet to be determined. Sandringham has earned the right to a home final, and it will meet South Melbourne Women's for the second week in succession.

This time, the stakes are even higher, with the teams playing off for a place in the Grand Final. Both teams have played finals in recent years, with Sandringham contesting the Preliminary Final last year, and South going out in the same match in 2009. The teams have split the points this season, with South winning 2-0 when the teams met in Round 9, and Sandringham victorious in Round 20, 4-1.

While the victor of the Sandringham South Melbourne Women's match will earn a place in the Grand Final and a week off, the loser will play the winner of the Elimination Final. By finishing third, Heidelberg United will host that crucial game, and it will play Casey

WPL RESULTS
Altona City 0 Box Hill United 0,
South Melbourne Womens FC 1 Sandringham SC 4
Doncaster Rovers 0 Bundoora Utd 4 (E Barilla S Galea E- Herd M Archer)
Heidelberg Utd 1 Ashburton 4
Casey Comets 4 VCL Country 0
Reserves: Altona City 1 Box Hill United 1, South Melbourne Womens FC 3 Sandringham SC 0, Doncaster Rovers 1 Bundoora Utd 4, Heidelberg Utd 1 Ashburton 2

WPL LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	20	14	2	4	43	16	44
South Melb	20	12	4	4	58	23	40
Heidelberg Utd	20	12	2	6	35	29	38
Casey Comets	20	11	4	5	43	24	34
Box Hill United	20	10	4	6	44	32	34
Bundoora Utd	20	8	5	7	32	25	29
Ashburton	20	8	3	9	32	30	27
Altona City	20	7	5	8	25	30	26
Emerging Ath	19	4	2	13	34	56	14
Doncaster R	20	4	1	15	20	53	13
VCL Country	19	3	0	16	14	62	6

WPL Next Round
WPL finals fixtures details were not supplied at the time of going to press
Please check the FFV website for details.
We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers.

WPL RESERVES LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	16	13	3	0	53	10	41
South Melb	16	11	4	1	52	16	37
Sandringham	16	8	2	6	27	16	26
Casey Comets	16	7	3	6	32	24	23
Bundoora Utd	15	6	4	5	21	19	22
Ashburton	15	6	1	8	26	29	19
Heidelberg Utd	16	3	4	9	21	39	12
Altona City	16	2	4	10	11	39	10
Doncaster R	16	1	3	12	10	61	5
Emerging Ath	0	0	0				0
VCL Country	0	0	0				0

Comets, which held on to fourth by the skin of its teeth. While the teams had contrasting results in Round 22, with Heidelberg suffering a heavy loss, and Casey enjoying a comfortable win, it's United that has had the better of the games between the two sides this year. Heidelberg won the Round 2 encounter 3-1, and triumphed 2-0 in the return fixture in Round 8. The most recent match between the two, however, took place back in May, so it is unlikely to be a good guide to how the teams are now.

Next Saturday also features another match, the rescheduled Round 10 match between VCL Country and the EAP. The teams sit occupy two of the bottom three positions on the ladder, but despite amassing fewer points between them than relegated Altona City, neither side is eligible to be relegated.

The match, which can have no bearing on either finals or relegation, hence its scheduling for after the regular season, takes place at Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve.



Sharks and Stars turn up the heat in race for title



Mem Suleyman

Di Iorio shines as Stars explode

Southern Stars got the victory they so dearly needed with a 4-0 success against Western Suburbs in front of their loyal home fans at Kingston Health Soccer Complex to move one step closer to promotion.

Both sides played out an even first half to take the scores to 0-0 at halftime with no clear opportunities going either way.

A superb second half brace from star midfielder Joe Di Iorio seen Southern Stars pile on four second half goals. The Midfielder clearly enjoyed himself as he was involved in three of the four Stars goals, scoring on two separate occasions and assisting Berkan Sakaci to a wonderful header.

Stars substitute Mark Newsome put the icing on the cake with his first touch of the game smashing home a wonderful volley to send the home fans wild.

“Excellent response today from the lads now we have to keep going”. Stars Manager Dean Hennessey said of his teams performance following last weeks lose to North Geelong.

In Like Flynn strike gives Pascoe Vale derby win over Fawkner

City of Moreland rivals Pascoe Vale and Fawkner went into this game wishing local council could spare a dollar or two come seasons end to the woeful CB Smith



Monday Night Football: Sunshine George Cross takes on FC Bulleen Lions tonight at the Veneto Social Club with KO 8.30PM. Come down and watch Kevin Muscat in action as both clubs chase promotion honours. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Reserve.

Pascoe Vale also introduced youngsters Andrew La Page, Patrick Brown, Agrian Talarico and welcomed back Daniel Tribuzio who had been missing since round one following his broken leg.

Competitive it may have been but as the players simmered, chances were few and far between in the opening exchanges.

However, the clash as a whole had offered little invention and as the half-time whistle went, those inside the CB Smith Reserve will have been largely unimpressed by the way in which the opening 45 minutes transpired into such an insipid affair.

It was to take something special to break the deadlock and Pascoe Vale turned to star midfielder Liam Flynn to once again this season smash home the winner. An easy finish from a well organised passage of play from Pascoe Vale, Flynn once again proving his worth.

Fawkner threw a number of substitutes on to try and salvage a draw but it

wasn't to be as the away side ran out comfortable winners.

All square in Maco derby

Altona and Preston played out a 1-1 draw in front of a strong crowd at Paisley Park Soccer Complex. Both teams came out all heart as the all important Traianedes/Micevski Cup was up for grabs.

The first goal came in the second half in sharp fashion as Preston's Kume Dimtrski took on the Altona defence to slot home a fine bit of individual brilliance.

George Papadopoulos equalised against the run of play 15 minutes from time with a strike that was originally going out of play after a strike from teammate Milos Lujic.

The match heated up 5 minutes from time as Preston's Tony Sterjovski was sent off for a nasty tackle, poor day for Sterjovski who earlier had a penalty cancelled out following a nice save from Tomislav Tomich.

All square in the Macedonian derby as the Sasa

Ogdenovski player of the game went to Altona's George Papadopoulos, multiculturalism at its best at Paisley Park.

Zebras bounce back

Whittlesea Zebras overcame North Geelong Warriors 2-1 with smart goals at Epping Stadium yesterday as the hosts' promotion credentials were back on track.

“The result could have gone either way, very even and entertaining game,” North Geelong Manager Ante Skoko told Goal Weekly of yesterday's game.

All three goals were scored in the first half as Whittlesea hit a 2-0 lead 30 minutes in. Five minutes before halftime North Geelong's Nicholas Anderson got behind the Whittlesea defence to bring scores back to 2-1.

The scores remained the same for the remainder of the game as the Zebras bounced back from their disappointing draw last week.

Sharks Close In On Title

Port continue to lead race to title as Langwarrin battle on Port Melbourne went into the game knowing 7 points from the remaining five games will secure the SL1 championship. They came back from a goal down in the second half to grab a important draw against the fighting Langwarrin.

Langwarrin have been showing some battling tendencies of late grabbing a important draw against promotion pushers Whittlesea Zebras last week.

Langwarrin were perhaps unlucky to grab all three points in this game as they took the lead in the first half thanks to a fine piece of play from Ben Chafery who went on a great run showing his heels to 3 Port players before slotting home the first goal.

That goal would not prove to be enough for Langwarrin as Port Melbourne grabbed the important equaliser in the second, a minor interrup-

SL1 RESULTS

Altona Magic 1
Preston Lions 1

Fawkner Blues 0
Pascoe Vale 1

Langwarrin 1
Port Melbourne 1

Southern Stars 4 (B Sakaci J Di Iorio 2 M Newsome) Western Suburbs 0

Whittlesea Zebras 2
North Geelong Warriors 1

U21s:

Altona Magic 3 (D Trajeski M Golijanin D Petrovski) Preston Lions 1, Fawkner Blues 1 Pascoe Vale 2, Langwarrin 1 Port Melbourne 1, Southern Stars 1 Western Suburbs 0, Whittlesea Zebras 3 North Geelong Warriors 2

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	18	11	5	2	28	14	38
Southern Stars	17	10	3	4	30	20	33
Whittlesea Z	18	9	5	4	31	22	32
Pascoe Vale	18	8	2	8	33	22	26
Altona Magic	18	8	4	6	29	26	25
North Geelong	18	7	2	9	22	29	23
Bulleen Lions	17	6	4	7	20	20	22
Sun George X	17	6	4	7	24	26	22
Fawkner Blues	18	6	3	9	19	17	21
Western Subs	18	6	2	10	19	31	20
Langwarrin	17	4	5	8	22	30	17
Preston Lions	18	4	3	11	22	42	15

SL1 Next Round

Port Melbourne v Whittlesea Zebras
SS Anderson Reserve
Fri 19 Aug KO 8:30PM

Nth Geelong v Western Suburbs
Elcho Park
Fri 19 Aug KO 8:30PM

Altona Magic v Pascoe Vale
Paisley Park
Sat 20 Aug KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Fawkner Blues
Kingston Heath
Sat 20 Aug KO 7:00PM

Preston Lions v FC Bulleen Lions
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 21 Aug KO 3:00PM

Sunshine George Cross v Langwarrin
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 21 Aug KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	17	12	1	4	58	17	37
Fawkner Blues	18	10	4	4	40	26	34
Pascoe Vale	18	11	1	6	42	32	34
Southern Stars	17	10	1	6	35	33	31
Western Subs	18	10	0	8	34	38	30
North Geelong	17	9	2	6	32	21	29
Whittlesea Z	18	9	2	7	35	30	29
Langwarrin	17	6	2	9	22	43	20
Sun George X	17	5	2	10	32	45	11
Altona Magic	18	5	3	10	33	40	15
Port Melbourne	18	3	5	10	22	39	14
Preston Lions	17	3	1	13	24	45	10

tion for Port who were thanking keeper Adam Hrehoresin for keeping the title favourites in the game all day.

WORLD OF SOCCER

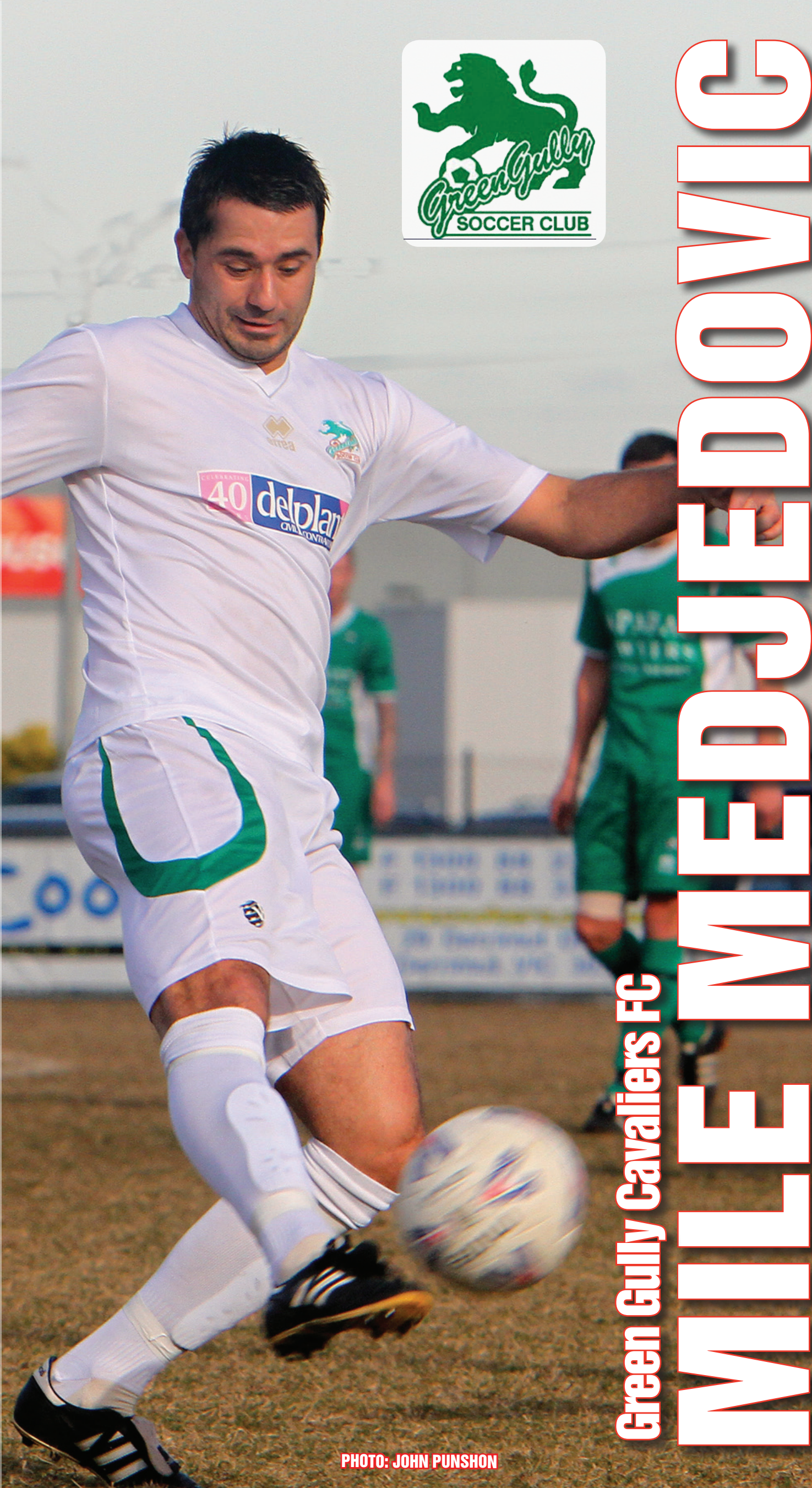
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FULL NAME: Mile Medjedovic
BIRTHPLACE: Australia
BIRTH DATE: 30.04.1980
HEIGHT: 192cm
WEIGHT: 88kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: 2004 Monaro
NICKNAME: Millsy
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Westgate FC, Heidelberg United FC, Westvale FC, Essendon Royals FC
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Victorian State Representative 2001, 2007
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: 2001 B&F Heidelberg United, 2005 B&F Essendon Royals
TEAM HONOURS: VPL Champions 2001, 2010, Minor Premiers 2009, 2011
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Redondo
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Nemanja Vidic
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Simon Colosimo
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Milan Ivanovic
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: 2001 VPL Grand Final
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: 2006/07 A-League GF, Melbourne Victory Vs Adelaide United
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 2001 Grand Final versus Port Melbourne
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Early morning games.
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Having little people as team mates at Green Gully FC
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not taking the next step to NSL/A-League
WORST INJURY: Rolled right ankle (several times)
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: VPL grounds
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bob Jane Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Subway
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Reading of the game
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Left foot
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Red Star Belgrade
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Basketball, Tennis
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Novak Djokovic
FAVOURITE FOODS: Japanese and Steak
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Denzel Washington
HOBBIES: None
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: Byron Bay
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: St Kilda
IDEAL DATE: Heidi Klum
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Footy Show
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Whatever's on the radio
FAVOURITE FILM: The Big Boss
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: FK Borac Banjaluka
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Too many to mention
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Father
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Warm Ups and pre-season
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play as long as I can
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Novak Djokovic
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar FC
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Green Gully FC



Green Gully Cavaliers FC

MILE MEDJEDOVIC

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

By John Fotinos

With the game increasingly becoming a scrap for midfield supremacy, the challenges from both sets of players were becoming more frequent. South Melbourne midfielder Petrovich went into the book following a late challenge, and teammate Weir as well as Heidelberg's McIlroy were fortunate to receive merely a verbal rebuke from referee Hakan Anaz following tackles from behind. The tackle from McIlroy on South defender Topalovic saw the latter being replaced by Watson due to a leg injury shortly before the main break. In first half injury time, Heidelberg midfielder Ederaro made a strong run into the box, and after falling awkwardly under a challenge, had his pleas for a penalty waved away. With the second half just six minutes in, Heidelberg midfielder Christodoulou rose to head an in-swinging Ed-

A disappointed Heidelberg United may well reflect on a game of missed opportunities as they bow out of the finals race for the 2011 season..



Yes Jess once again! Jesse Krncevic makes Heidelberg pay from the spot.
Photo: CINDY NITSOS




Bodies fly everywhere but referee Hakan has no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Photo: CINDY NITSOS




South's Daniel Vasilevski tries to combat Osagie Ederaro in front of the big crowd at Anderson Reserve yesterday. Photo:CINDY NITSOS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



3

HUME CITY



4

Match Details

Oakleigh Cannons: 1. Peter ZOIS, 2. James CUMMINGS, 4. Ante CICAČ, 6. Ramazan TAVSANCIOĞLU, 7. Bonel OBRADOVIĆ, 10. Ricky DIACO, 12. Luke WALKER, 17. Shaun ONTONG, 20. Ari DRAKOS, 21. Hayden DOYLE

SUBSTITUTES: 35. Daniel NEE-SHAM, 8. James ROBINSON, 15. Joshua GROENWALD, 19. Dane MILO-VANOVIĆ, 25. Craig GOODWIN

Hume City: 1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 2. Adam NAKIĆ, 4. Mark PISTININZI, 6. Serdar PIR, 7. Isyan ERDOĞAN, 9. Pece SIVESKI, 10. Richie CARDOZO, 11. Andy VLAHOS, 22. Phillip RICCOBENE, 25. Atila OFLI, 31. Sam DEHANI

SUBSTITUTES: 13. Alex FLOREA, 17. James RICCOBENE, 18. Kenny GEROH, 28. Ali TURGUT, 42. Cem CIL.

Hume wins a cliffhanger as Oakleigh stumbles

By Matthew McNamara

A late brace from young gun Atila Ofli has secured a place in the Major Semi Final for Hume City after a remarkable come from behind victory over an unfortunate Oakleigh Cannons at Jack Edwards Reserve last night.

Hume trailed 2-0 at half time, and were 3-2 down with only 2 minutes of regulation time to play, but somehow managed to perform one of the greatest wins in their history.

Oakleigh were the more dominant early in the game, with Hayden Doyle looking sharp and Ricky Diaco constantly causing problems to the Hume central defensive pairing of Adam Nakic and Isyan Erdogan.

The first real chance of the game fell to the visitors however, as Richie Cardozo's whipped free kick found Nakic but his header went agonisingly wide.

Oakleigh began to reassert their dominance, and a neat ball from Bonel Obradovic found Doyle. Doyle struck the ball with some serious venom and beat Louie Acesvki in the Hume goal, only for the cross bar to save the Hume Keeper.

But only moments later Oakleigh did take the lead as Doyle's cross was met by Ricky Diaco who's shot looped over the hapless Acevski to give the hosts the lead after 34 minutes. With the momentum with Oakleigh, they soon capitalised again, this time Frank Lagana

nodding home to give the hosts a two goal cushion into the half time break.

Hume reappeared a different team in the second half, and immediately struck back through Cardozo only 3 minutes after the break as his unstoppable shot sailed in past Peter Zois.

Moments later it was 2-2 and game on as Pece Siveski's quick free kick was put into the net by an Oakleigh defender.

Oakleigh looked rattled but were soon awarded a lifeline as Sam Dehaini was adjudged to have fouled Lagana in the area. Ricky Diaco stepped up and made no mistake from the spot and Oakleigh restored their advantage.

With only moments remaining, it appeared a hero was needed for Hume to try and take the game to extra time. Up stepped youngster Ofli who scrambled home an Andy Vlahos corner to send the away fans into delirium in the 89th minute.

If Hume were delighted to have equalised, words cannot describe the feeling only moments later as Ofli broke through the Oakleigh defence to slot home past Zois and give the visitors an unlikely 4-3 lead with only injury time remaining.

Oakleigh threw the kitchen sink at Hume in the dying moments, but it was not to be as the visitors from Broadmeadows run out the game 4-3 winners in a game that no fan shall forget for a long time.



Hume City are all smiles as a Preliminary date with Green Gully now beckons.
Photo: ANITA MILAS




Phil Ricobene gets a lift from Pece Siveski.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Hume hero Atila Ofli squeezes the ball home past Peter Zois and the Oakleigh defence.
Photo: ANITA MILAS






V-LEAGUE

NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 15

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Round 15
Wrap

One Nail in the Coffin for Albert Park

By Matthew Montgomery

CF Brunswick 5
FC Melbourne 3

The first game to open the card of Round 15 saw Brunswick, who have made third position on the ladder their own, took on Melbourne who are in 10th and who were still pumped after their hard fought win over Albert Park last week.

There were some considerable inclusions and exclusions for both sides, as Brunswick were without their leading goal scorer in Munya Nyadzayo and Melbourne gained the services of little midfield maestro, Fab De Britto. Brunswick's hardened defender, Antonis Apostolakis, was the first to get on the score sheet as he rifled his toe poke past Harry Kitharidis.

It was quite a milestone for Apostolakis who also claimed his first of the season. After taking the lead, the pressure seemed to be off the Brunswick lads as they added the next two goals through Danny Ngaluafu and Ruz Roslan for a 3-0 lead. But as always, in true Melbourne fashion, they bounced back as Mus Elorr's thumping strike and Mael Guilliou's goal-line tap in made it 3-2 at the break.

The second half saw Brunswick gifted with a golden chance to extend their lead as Melbourne's Chris Gospel hand-balled in the "D" resulting in Danny Ngaluafu stepping up for the penalty, in which he struck straight into Harry Kitharidis.

Making up for his blunder, Gospel then stepped up and drilled his free kick through the opposing two-man wall and levelled the game at 3-3. With the momentum swinging heavily in Melbourne's favour, Brunswick target-man, Mike Sharples, got his side back into the lead with two stunning strikes. With the score at 5-3, Gospel was again in the thick of the action as he was responsible for taking two of their 2nd spot penalties.

But he failed to capitalise as Red's keeper, Brendan Chen saved one and Gospel drove the second into the post. It was a solid performance by Brunswick who continue to punch out hard fought wins to consolidate their third position on the ladder, while Melbourne will be rueing missed chances to get closer to the top 8.

Ashburton FC 5
FC Prahran 7

The second game of the night saw 8th placed Ashburton take on Prahran who are 6th. . Ashburton's regular keeper, Jamie Tran, was ruled out for the game with a shoulder injury during the week and in his place came Carlos Monuz, playing at his fourth club this season!

Ravel Tavares also returned, along with debutant Ambroz Lleshaj. Prahran on the other hand were without defender Iman Arjomand, but in his place gained their former keeper, Dima Shakhanov, who was playing as a field player! The first half started brightly for Paul Vidic and his Ashburton side, as NIKE V-League top scorer, James Blackburn, tapped in his first for the night. But Ashburton's lead was short lived as Prahran responded through their creative duo in Marcus Barbosa and Maxi Avram.

But the biggest surprise was when their former keeper, Shakhanov, came off the bench to add his sides third. Just as Prahran looked to gain control of the game, Mark Burton completed a smart 1-2 with Tavares in the 'D' to make it 3-2 before half time.

The second half saw more Prahran domination as Avram and Shakhanov got their second, while their tricky midfielder, Ahmed Muktar, made it 6-2 within minutes. A Ben Armstrong own goal gave Ashburton a slight chance of a comeback,



Pascoe Vale's Ahmed Azzam can't believe his luck as he scores with the last kick of the game.



Fitzroy's Richie Ferguson (L) and North's Billy Michelakis have nothing but eyes for the ball.



Brunswick's Mike Sharples (M) celebrates one of his two game breaking second half goals.



Balwyn's match winner, Jason Barrientos (L) was dangerous every time he got near the ball.

and their chance was again doubled as Blackburn bagged his second and made it 6-4. But as always, when Prahran are in trouble, they can always call on the ever reliable Maxi Avram, who was on hand to kill off the threat of Ashburton with his third.

All there was left late in the game was a consolation goal for the 'green machine' through Moe Alghorabi.

The 7-5 win for Prahran boosts their chances of playing cup football at seasons end, while Ashburton still lie dangerously close to the drop zone.

Pascoe Vale FC 9
FC Essendon 1

The encounter between Pascoe Vale and Essendon was bound to bear an interesting result as 'the reds' who are enjoying a rich vein of form get to test where they are really at against the leagues current champions and second ranked side.

It was a welcome return to the Essendon side for Dusan Bosnjak, while spiritual leader and league top scorer, Alex Stevanovic, was unavailable. Pascoe Vale on the other hand had a full list of players as everyone was fighting fit. The first half didn't start well for Essendon who found themselves a goal down within the first two minutes, as Andre Caro exposed their sleeping defence.

An Ernie Simsek double and Ahmed Azzam side footer followed soon after to give the black and whites a valuable 4-0 lead and almost kill off any chance of an Essendon revival. But Hooman Shekari, leading the forward line for Essendon disagreed as he and Alex Hussein combined to make it 4-1 at half time.

Joao Da Silva was the first to get on the score sheet in the second half for Pascoe Vale to extend their lead early on. Essendon, who were copping a hiding from their superior opponents seemed to take a stand as they played a more man on man game style, shutting out the champs for a further 10 minutes.

Da Silva then scored his second along with Azzam just after the half hour mark to further extend their lead to 7-1.

With the game over, and with 30 seconds remaining on the clock, Pascoe Vale weren't done as Caro and Azzam completed a match brace and hat trick respectively to rub more salt into Essendon's wounds as they ran out 9-1 winners.

It was a disappointing performance from the reds who were seriously hurting without Stevanovic in the side as Pascoe Vale sensed a good opportunity to boost their goal difference. Next week

Essendon face more quality opposition in Prahran, let's hope that their talisman will be available.

All the while the Pascoe Vale train continues to gather pace, watching and waiting for North to drop valuable premiership points.

North Melbourne FC 8
Fitzroy FC 3

The next two sides to do battle in the pressure cooker that is the NIKE V-League saw ladder leaders North Melbourne accept the challenge of 4th placed Fitzroy.

An encounter that the Pascoe Vale boys from the previous game had a lot of interest in. For the top four clash, North had lost Fernando De Moraes but gained their solid enforcer in Colby Waterfield. Fitzroy saw two of their more important players in Richie Ferguson and Lucas Johns return to the line up after they were badly missed in last weeks loss to Hume.

As both sides began the first half by getting a feel for each others game styles, it was Fitzroy who raced to the lead as young striker, Johnny Nikolaoudis latched onto Shayan Rashidi's long ball and coolly slotted underneath an advancing Christos Apostolakis.

Although the underdogs had the lead, Johnny Niko's opener seemed to awaken the sleeping giant that is North as they piled on the next three goals through Tiago Priori, Jon Barrientos and Colby Waterfield to make it 3-1 at the break. To continue North's momentum into the second half, Adam Cooper claimed his first of the game as he slotted past Steve Cuce with the outside of his right boot.

But the game would take an amazing twist when Fitzroy's captain, Shayan Rashidi, sent a 100 k/m rocket into the top left corner from the half way line, sending the crowd into a frenzy and giving his team mates a sense that they were a chance for a major upset.

After some really congested play, and taking it to the title favourites, Fitzroy's spirit was all but broken when North scored two from questionable Refereeing decisions as Barrientos and Hara Yoshinao made it 6-2. Young Lucas Johns then added his sides third by getting past Yoshinao to put some pressure on North in the latter stages of the game.

But it was to be of no avail as Barrientos' hat trick and Cooper's double completed North's comfortable 8-3 score line. Fitzroy could feel a little disheartened as the refs had a major influence at crucial points in the game, but as

the say "that's football" and you have to take the good with the bad.

Fitzroy will need to regroup before next week when they take on a faltering Ashburton. A game which they will highly fancy their chances.

Metropolitan FC 7
Hume FC 2

The next game at 9:30 saw Metropolitan in 7th take on a Hume side who are desperate to get out of the relegation zone in 9th.

Metropolitan made a few new inclusions, one being keeper Dardan Djokaj as back up for Yane Coceski and the other being 'the incredible one' Ivan Zilic who has been missing for a number of weeks. Hume on the other hand brought in keeper Fethi Goren to replace the injured Con Makris and striker Elias Tsintzas also returned to the line up after a few weeks on the side-line.

The first half began with Metro's top scorer, Alija Redzepovic, rounding Goren and coolly tapping in. Then moments after, Hume front man, Haider Noor, levelled the game with a well-placed side footer from distance. The last three goals of the half were added by Redzepovic brothers, Dino and Alija, who completed his first half hat trick and made it 4-1 before half time. Hume had their chances to draw closer as Tsintzas blasted against the post late in the half.

Metro's Jusuf Avdic also suffered the same fate. Ivan Zilic capped off his return to league action with a classic goal at the opening of the second half by getting around Fethi and tapping in. Elias Tsintzas brought the score back to 5-2 with a well-timed strike from Mehmet Parlak's corner, a beautiful goal to watch! Possibly even one of the goals of the week.

But from that point on it was the continuation of the "Alija Show" as he scored his 4th and 5th goals for the match. It was quite a dominant display from the sky blues, but they can consider themselves quite lucky as (like the first half) Hume were denied by the post on two occasions. It just seemed that the football gods weren't smiling down on Hume on this occasion. They will just have to make their own luck when they take on bottom of the ladder side Albert Park next week.

Albert Park FC 3
FC Balwyn 9

To complete the card for round 15 for this 2011 season, we were graced with the game which the final result would have the greatest impact on the lad-

der as 12th ranked Albert Park took on Balwyn in 11th.

Albert Park, as always, had the revolving door working over time as a number of changes were made. Former keeper, Fadi Qunqar, made a return since his last game in round 9, live-wire forward Andrew Nabbout, debutant Juan Munoz and manager Alex Arreggin also took to the pitch.

As for their opponents, Balwyn, they went for a more solid approach, going in unchanged after last weeks unlucky 3-3 draw with Metro last week. Almost the first major play after the first whistle, Balwyn captain, Tony Imeri, opened his sides' account with a clever assist from nippy forward Rob Zadworny.

Andrew Nabbout almost equalised for Albert Park but the post kept him out. Balwyn's Tony Saric was also denied by both the post AND crossbar with very fine strikes at that! But the post wasn't going to keep Jason Barrientos from scoring as he added two goals scored through sheer individual brilliance.

With the half drawing to a close, Nabbout gave 'the oranges' a fighting chance in the do-or- die- clash when he saw keeper Frano Saric off his line and simply thumped the ball out of his reach. In the second half, Albert Park's good fortune continued as player/manager Alex Arreggin combined with Mili Muratbegovic to make it 3-2 and really shift this game into gear. But similar to the first half, when the pressure was on, Jason Barrientos stepped up and added a further two game-breaking brace to take his match tally to four goals and the game score to 5-2.

Rob Zadworny then got his first of the game as he was set up by an impressive mid-air back-heel in which his shot rebounded off Qunqar and into the net. In a strange turn of events, Albert Park were then given a slim line line as Balwyn's keeper, Frano Saric, went to clear the ball - only to send it straight into his brother Mark and rebound in for an own goal! Soon after, Rob Zadworny completed his hat trick and Tony Saric thumped past an uninterested Qunqar who made no attempt to stop the goal bound strike. The 9-3 score line was a just result as it clearly showed their intent to survive and play cup Futsal in the states best indoor competition. Albert Park are now almost certainly doomed for the State League. If they are any chance to survive, they will have to really pull a rabbit out of the hat to catch Balwyn who are now 6 points ahead of them.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	15	14	1	0	120	52	68	43
2 Pascoe Vale FC	15	12	2	1	92	37	55	38
3 CF Brunswick	15	9	1	5	91	78	13	28
4 Fitzroy FC	15	8	1	6	82	74	8	25
5 FC Prahran	15	7	2	6	92	69	23	23
6 Metropolitan FC	14	7	2	5	84	83	1	23
7 FC Essendon	15	7	1	7	82	111	-29	22
8 Ashburton FC	15	5	2	8	82	100	-18	17
9 Hume FC	15	4	1	10	72	95	-23	13
10 FC Melbourne	14	4	1	9	52	76	-24	13
11 FC Balwyn	15	3	1	11	56	75	-19	10
12 Albert Park FC	15	1	1	13	67	122	-55	4

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 15 Wed Aug 10th

• 6:30 CF Brunswick v FC Melbourne	5 - 3
• 7:15 Ashburton FC v FC Prahran	5 - 7
• 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Essendon	9 - 1
• 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Fitzroy FC	8 - 3
• 9:30 Metropolitan FC v Hume FC	7 - 2
• 10:15 Albert Park FC v FC Balwyn	3 - 9

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 16

Wed Aug 17th

• 6:30 FC Essendon v FC Prahran	
• 7:15 CF Brunswick v FC Balwyn	
• 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Melbourne	
• 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Metropolitan FC	
• 9:30 Ashburton FC v Fitzroy FC	
• 10:15 Albert Park FC v Hume FC	

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

1) A. Stevanovic FCE	31
2) J. Blackburn AFC	31
3) M. Nyadzayo CFB	27
4) A. Redzepovic Metro FC	27
5) M. Avram FCP	27

Catch
The Futbol Town Show
every Tuesday 7pm on
C31 and C44Digital

FUTSAL OZ

Photos By
MATT MONTGOMERY





Alanic VPL Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	24	13	4	7	51	23	43
Oakleigh Cannons	24	13	4	7	41	29	43
Hume City	24	12	6	6	48	32	42
South Melbourne	24	12	5	7	39	33	41
Heidelberg Utd	24	12	7	5	53	26	40
Northcote City	24	11	6	7	61	37	39
Richmond Eagles	24	11	4	9	34	38	37
Bentleigh Greens	24	10	6	8	34	34	36
Dandenong Thunder	24	12	5	7	43	29	35
Melbourne Knights	24	8	7	9	39	33	31
Springvale White Eagles	24	3	6	15	24	62	15
St Albans Saints	24	3	4	17	27	58	13
VTC Football	24	4	0	20	25	85	12

Alanic VPL Finals Series - Week 2

QUALIFYING FINAL

Oakleigh Cannons v South Melbourne

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Green Gully v Hume City

VPL finals fixtures details were not supplied at the time of going to press.

Please check the FFV website for details.

We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers.

Under 21s Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	PT	
South Melbourne	24	16	4	4	49	25	52	52		Congratulations to South Melbourne for winning the VPL Under 21 championship for Season 2011.
Melbourne Knights	24	14	6	4	68	31	48			
Hume City	24	15	3	6	63	28	48			
Oakleigh Cannons	23	13	5	5	63	34	44			
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	11	6	6	45	29	39			
Northcote City	23	11	3	9	48	36	36			
Heidelberg Utd	23	10	4	9	43	41	34			
Richmond	24	9	3	12	43	61	30			
VTC Football	22	9	1	12	40	54	28			
Dandenong Thunder	24	7	3	14	36	52	24			
Bentleigh Greens	24	6	5	13	41	55	23			
Springvale White Eagles	24	5	2	17	34	86	17			
St Albans Saints	24	2	5	17	25	66	8			

Keep an eye out for the annual GW Kiss My Grass Souvenir edition, due out on Monday 19th September, to grab your souvenir poster.

Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Weekend Scoreboard

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: Keon Park 5 Northern Utd 1, Light Utd 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Bundoora Utd 3 (A Nikoloski M Jovanovski M Almarhoun) Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 1, Keilor Wolves 1 Oak Park SC 1, Res: Keon Park 5 Northern Utd 1, Light Utd 7 Mitchell Rangers 3 (C Malmend M Elor 2), Bundoora Utd 4 Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 1, Keilor Wolves 3 Oak Park SC 2,

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Dandenong Warriors 3 Ringwood City 0, St Kevins 0 Harrisfield Hurricanes 1, Sandown Lions FC 2 Dandenong Wolves 0, Aston Athletic Football Club 1 Glen Waverley 2, Parkmore 3 Endeavour Hills 1, Old Mentonians 3 Old Haileybury 2 Res: Dandenong Warriors 3 Ringwood City 2, St Kevins 3 Harrisfield Hurricanes 8, Sandown Lions FC 2 Dandenong Wolves 3, Aston Athletic Football Club 2 Glen Waverley 3, Parkmore 3 Endeavour Hills 2, Old Mentonians 9 Old Haileybury 3

Mens Metropolitan League Central: Melbourne Lions 2 Altona North 2, Albert Park 2 Yarra Jets 0, North Lions 1 Manningham 2 (T Da Silva 2), Moonee Valley Knights 2 Caulfield Grammarians 5 Res: Melbourne Lions 5 Altona North 5, Albert Park 6 Yarra Jets 0, North Lions 1 Manningham 1 (T Hatzelopoulos), Moonee Valley Knights 3 Caulfield Grammarians 2

Womens State League Div 1: Monbulk Rangers SC 2 (A McKillen M Deboer) Uni. of Melbourne 1, Cairnlea 7 (T Hussein 2 D Mutuel 3 N Ozcan K Theodorou) Brighton 2, South Springvale 3 South Yarra 2 Res: Monbulk Rangers SC 2 (N Cranston 2) Uni. of Melbourne 1, Cairnlea 8 Brighton 0, South Springvale 1 North Yarra 2

Womens State League Div 2 North-West: North Geelong Warriors 1 (M Medved) La Trobe University 3, Keilor Park 0 FC Bullen Lions 3 (C Dalla Costa M Simonetti S Hesse), Western Eagles 4 (A Kozovska 2 C Silivinski E Attard) Whittlesea Rangers FC 1, Brunswick Zebras 2 (GA Colla T Thomas) Yarra Jets 4

Womens State League Div 2 South-East: Mooroolbark 3 (N Canusi A D'Ortenzo 2) Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 1, Mornington 2 (J Van Stekelenburg A Schuchard) Ashburton 2, North Caulfield 2 (S Moskowitz 2) Berwick City 2, Noble Park 1 Sandringham SC 5,

Womens State League Div 3 North-West: Eltham Redback FC 10 (S Lookhart 2 AN Giuliani M Parker S Abu Awad KM Hodgson 4 S Famularo) Uni. of Melbourne 0, Melbourne Knights 4 (C Sikic 3 S Sikic) Melton 0, Brunswick City 0 Diamond Valley Utd 1, Whittlesea Zebras 0 Sunshine George Cross 3, Old Carey 0 Boroondara Eagles 12 (A Townshend 3) E Defina 3 A Vakalopoulos 2 J Walter M Smith Own Goal 2

Womens State League Div 3 South-East: Ashburton 0 Knox City 2, South Melbourne 4 Monash University 1 (L Arand), Dandenong City 1 Endeavour Utd 6

Womens Metropolitan League North-West: West Preston 4 Watsonia Heights 0,

Womens Metropolitan League South-East: Skye Utd 4 Keysborough 0

Womens Metropolitan League Central: Elwood City 0 Fitzroy City 3, Brunswick Zebras 0 Keilor Park 4

Womens Metropolitan League East-North-East: Eltham Redback FC 1 Boroondara Eagles 2, Mooroolbark 0 FC Bullen Lions 12 (K Maddafferi S Laratta 2 A Hiotis 3 C Sandona 2 K Bravo A Benifer Own Goal 2), Deakin Lions FC 1 La Trobe University 0,

Mens Thirds League Div 1: Old Xaverians 10 DOC Utd 0, Marcellin Old Collegians 1 Doveton 2

Mens Thirds League Div 2 North-West: Plenty Valley Lions 3 Northcote City 2, Melbourne University 2 Moreland City 0, La Trobe University 1 (D Berends) Gisborne 2, Keilor Park 2 (A El Dib 2) FC Strathmore 3

Mens Thirds League Div 2 South-East: Riversdale 3 Whitehorse Utd 1, RMIT Redbacks 2 Scotch Old Boys 2

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: Brimbank Stallions 7 La Trobe University 1, Fawkner 2 Altona City 1, Uni. of Melbourne 5 Eltham Redback FC 3,

Mens Thirds League Div 3 South-East: Old Camberwell Grammar 1 South Yarra 5, Bayside Argonauts 1 Monash University 0, Beaumaris 0 Central Park Rangers 2 1, Old Xaverians 4 Central Park Rangers 1 0

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: Uni. of Melbourne 1 Altona City 4, Melbourne Bears 7 Melbourne University 0, Watsonia Heights 8 Moreland Wolves 1,

Mens Thirds League Div 4 South-East: Elwood City 1 Marcellin Old Collegians 0, Middle Park FC 2 Scotch Old Boys 3, Ashburton 2 Caulfield Cobras 4,

Mens Thirds League Div 5 North-West: West Preston 3 Tullamarine Jets 2,

Mens Thirds League Div 5 South-East: RMIT Redbacks 11 Old Brighton Grammarians 4, East Bentleigh 6 (E Anker D Balamatsias J Shaw 3 Z Szulman) Keysborough 7

Mens Thirds League Div 6 North-West: Old Xaverians 4 Hoppers Crossing 0, Brimbank Stallions 2 Sunbury Utd 2,

Mens Thirds League Div 6 South-East: Beaumaris 0 Brighton 3, Old Scotch SC 0 Doveton 2, Skye Utd 2 Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 3, Sandringham SC 2 2 Old Mentonians 4

Mens Masters North-North-East: Ashburton 2 Glen Waverley 0, Monash City 1 Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 1,

Mens Masters South-East: White Star Dandenong 3 Kingston City 10, Beaumaris 1 Caulfield Cobras 3

Mens Masters Central: Middle Park FC 3 Northcote City 3

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: P W D L F A PT
Bundoora Utd 16 10 3 3 50 21 33
Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 16 9 1 6 26 23 33
Bulleen Lions 3 (C Dalla Costa M Simonetti S Hesse), Western Eagles 4 (A Kozovska 2 C Silivinski E Attard) Whittlesea Rangers FC 1, Brunswick Zebras 2 (GA Colla T Thomas) Yarra Jets 4
Oak Park SC 16 8 1 7 31 42 22
Keon Park 16 5 3 8 27 36 18
Mitchell Rangers 15 3 3 9 20 31 12
Northern Utd 16 3 4 9 20 49 10

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: P W D L F A PT
Tullamarine Jets 14 12 0 2 63 25 36
Oak Park SC 16 11 1 4 54 30 34
Keilor Wolves 16 10 1 5 74 34 31
Dandenong Warriors 15 9 1 5 47 28 28
Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 16 6 3 7 37 32 21
Light Utd 16 5 3 8 46 56 18
Mitchell Rangers 15 4 3 8 41 59 15
Northern Utd 16 3 1 12 26 86 10
Keon Park 16 3 1 12 24 62 7

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: P W D L F A PT
Harrisfield Hurricanes 18 15 0 3 43 19 45
Aston Athletic Football Club 18 11 3 4 49 30 36
Dandenong Warriors 18 12 2 4 84 26 32
Sandown Lions FC 17 10 2 5 42 26 32
Glen Waverley 18 10 1 7 47 26 31
Old Mentonians 18 10 1 7 51 38 31
Ringwood City 16 7 4 5 26 27 25
St Kevins 18 7 2 9 35 32 23
Dandenong Wolves 18 5 3 10 34 70 15
Endeavour Hills 18 2 4 12 20 59 10
Parkmore 17 2 2 13 34 70 8
Endeavour Hills 18 3 0 15 28 70 6

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: P W D L F A PT
Glen Waverley 18 13 2 3 51 30 41
Dandenong Warriors 17 14 1 2 75 24 40
Harrisfield Hurricanes 17 12 3 2 59 28 39
Sandown Lions FC 17 10 3 4 46 25 32
Old Mentonians 18 8 3 7 41 38 27
Ringwood City 16 8 1 7 41 33 25
Aston Athletic Football Club 18 6 5 7 36 43 23
St Kevins 18 6 2 10 28 47 20
Parkmore 17 5 2 10 27 41 17
Dandenong Wolves 18 5 2 11 55 64 16
Endeavour Hills 18 3 2 13 36 62 11
Old Haileybury 18 0 4 14 28 88 4

Mens Metropolitan League Central: P W D L F A PT
Eltham Redback FC 14 11 0 3 51 16 33
Marcellin Old Collegians 13 10 1 2 47 17 31
Mornington 12 9 1 2 41 6 28
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North Caulfield 13 5 2 6 45 30 17
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Mens Metropolitan League Central: P W D L F

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